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Domeſtic Medicine:

OR, A

TREATISE

ON THE

PREVENTION AND CURE

OF

DISEASES

BY

REGIMEN and SIMPLE MEDICINES.

By WILLIAM BUCHAN, M. D.
Of the Royal College of Phyſicians, Edinburgh.

Valetudo ſuſtentatur notitia ſui corporis; et obſervatione, quæ res aut prodeſſe ſoleant, aut obeſſe; et continentia in victu omni atque cultu, corporis tuendi cauſa; et prætermittendis voluptatibus, &c. Cic. de Offic.

Optimum vero medicamentum eſt, opportune cibus datus. Celſ. de Med.

The SECOND EDITION, with conſiderable Additions.

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MDCCLXXII.

TO

Sir JOHN PRINGLE, Bart.

PHYSICIAN TO HER MAJESTY.

SIR,

THE character which you juſtly ſuſtain in the literary world, your laudable and ſucceſsful endeavours to extend and improve the art of medicine, the confidence repoſed in your ſkill by the public, and the important ſtation you hold in the care of the Royal Family, all conſpire to point you out as the moſt proper Patron of a Performance which has for its object the HEALTH of the inhabitants of Great Britain.

THESE,

DEDICATION.

THESE, Sir, were the motives which induced me to dedicate to you the following ſheets. I wiſh they were more worthy of your acceptance; but, ſuch as they are, I freely ſubmit them to your candour, and make no doubt of meeting with that indulgence which is inſeparable from great abilities.

THAT you may long continue an ornament to Society, and an houour to the Medical Profeſſion, is the ſincere wiſh of,

SIR,

Your moſt obedient

Humble Servant,

Edinburgh,
June 4. 1772.

WILLIAM BUCHAN.

PREFACE.

WHEN I firſt ſignified my intention of publiſhing the following ſheets, I was told by my friends it would draw on me the reſentment of the whole Faculty. As I never could entertain ſuch an unworthy idea of phyſicians, I was reſolved to make the experiment, which indeed came out pretty much as might have been expected. By the more ſelfiſh and narrow-minded part of the Faculty, the performance was condemned; while many of thoſe, whoſe learning and liberality of ſentiments do honour to medicine, received it in a manner which at once ſhewed their indulgence, and the falſhood of the common opinion, *that all phyſicians wiſh to conceal their art.*

THE reception which the book met with from the public was ſtill more flattering, and deſerves my moſt grateful acknowledgments. A perſuaſion that ſuch a performance might be uſeful, and was even wiſhed for by the public, encouraged me to print a large impreſſion; but my moſt ſanguine expectations could never have ſuggeſted that above five thouſand copies would have been ſold in a corner of Britain before another edition could be got ready.

A SENSE of gratitude, which public approbation ſeldom fails to inſpire, induced me to beſtow ſome pains to make the book more generally uſeful, by enlarging the *Prophylaxis*, or that part which treats of preventing diſeaſes, and likewiſe adding ſeveral diſeaſes which were entirely omitted in the former impreſſion. This inevitably retarded the publication of the ſecond Edition, and has likewiſe drawn it out to a greater length than could have been wiſhed; but theſe inconveniencies will, I hope, be excuſed, as the book is certainly rendered leſs incomplete.

THE obſervations relative to Nurſing and the Management of Children, were chiefly ſuggeſted by an extenſive practice among infants, in a large branch of the Foundling-Hoſpital, where I had an opportunity not only of treating the diſeaſes incident to childhood, but likewiſe of trying different plans of nurſing, and obſerving their effects. Whenever I had it in my power to place the children under the care of proper nurſes, to inſtruct theſe nurſes in their duty, and to be ſatisfied that they performed it, very few of them died; but when, from diſtance of place, and other unavoidable circumſtances, the children were left to the ſole care of mercenary nurſes, without any one to inſtruct or ſuperintend them, ſcarce any of them lived.

THIS was ſo apparent as, with me, to amount to a proof of the following melancholy fact: *That almoſt one half of the human ſpecies periſh in infancy,*

by neglect or improper management. This reflection has made me often wish to be the happy instrument of alleviating the miseries of those suffering innocents, or of rescuing them from an untimely grave. With this view I had collected some observations on the public and private means of preserving the lives of children; but not being able, on account of necessary avocations, to prepare them for the public eye, was obliged to confine myself in a great measure to my former observations on this subject *. I hope, however, even these may be of use; and if ever an opportunity offers of treating the subject at more length, I shall most heartily embrace it.

The application of medicine to the various occupations of life was likewise chiefly the result of observation. An extensive practice for several years, in one of the largest manufacturing towns in England, afforded me sufficient opportunities of observing the injuries which those useful people sustain from their particular employments, and likewise of trying various methods of obviating such injuries. The success which attended these trials was sufficient to encourage this attempt, which we hope will be of use to those who are under the necessity of earning their bread by such employments as are unfavourable to health.

* Most of the observations contained in the First Chapter were made in the Foundling-Hospital at Ackworth; and were communicated to the Public, above a dozen years ago, in a small pamphlet addressed by the Author to the Governors of that Hospital.

We do not mean to intimidate men, far leſs to inſinuate that even thoſe arts, the practice of which is attended with ſome degree of danger, ſhould not be carried on; but to guard the leſs cautious and unwary againſt thoſe dangers which they have it in their power to avoid, and which they often, through mere fool-hardineſs, incur. As every occupation in life diſpoſes thoſe who follow it to ſome particular diſeaſes more than to others, it is certainly of importance to know theſe, in order that people may be upon their guard againſt them. It is always better to be warned of the approach of an enemy than to be ſurpriſed by him, eſpecially where there is a poſſibility of avoiding the danger.

The obſervations concerning Diet, Air, Exerciſe, &c. are of a more general nature, and have not eſcaped the attention of phyſicians in any age. They are ſubjects of too great importance, however, to be paſſed over in an attempt of this kind, and can never be ſufficiently recommended. The man who pays a proper attention to theſe, will ſeldom need the phyſician, and he who does not, will ſeldom enjoy health, let him employ as many phyſicians as he will.

Though we have endeavoured to point out the cauſes of diſeaſes, and to put people upon their guard againſt them, yet it muſt be acknowledged that they are often of ſuch a nature as only to admit of being removed by the diligence and activity of the public magiſtrate. We are ſorry, indeed,

to obſerve, that the power of the magiſtrate is very ſeldom exerted in this country for the preſervation of health. The importance of a proper medical police is either not underſtood, or very little regarded. Many things highly injurious to the public health are daily practiſed with impunity, while others abſolutely neceſſary for its preſervation are entirely neglected.

Some of the public means of preſerving health are hinted in the general prophylaxis, as the inſpection of proviſions, widening the ſtreets of great towns, keeping them clean, ſupplying the inhabitants with wholeſome water, &c.; but they are paſſed over in a very curſory manner, as it was intended to have added an Appendix concerning the advantage of a proper medical police. This, however, was found impracticable, as the book had run out to too great a length; but we hope an occaſion may ſome time offer of laying before the Public ſome obſervations on this important ſubject.

In the treatment of diſeaſes, we have been peculiarly attentive to regimen. The generality of people lay too much ſtreſs upon medicine, and truſt too little to their own endeavours. It is always, however, in the power of the patient, or of thoſe about him, to do as much towards his recovery as can be effected by the phyſician. By not attending to this, the deſigns of Medicine are often fruſtrated; and the patient, by purſuing a

wrong plan of regimen, not only defeats the doctor's endeavours, but renders them dangerous. I have often known patients killed by an error in regimen, when they were uſing very proper medicines. It will be ſaid, the phyſician always orders the regimen when he preſcribes a medicine. I wiſh it were ſo, both for the honour of the Faculty and the ſafety of their patients: but phyſicians, as well as other people, are too little attentive to this matter.

THOUGH many reckon it doubtful whether medicines are more beneficial or hurtful to mankind, yet all agree in allowing the neceſſity and importance of a proper regimen in diſeaſes. Indeed the very appetites of the ſick prove its propriety. No man in his ſenſes ever imagined that a perſon in a fever, for example, could eat, drink, or conduct himſelf in the ſame manner as one in perfect health. This part of medicine, therefore, is evidently founded in Nature, and is every way conſiſtent with reaſon and common ſenſe. Had men been more attentive to it, and leſs ſolicitous in hunting after ſecret remedies, Medicine had never become an object of ridicule.

INDEED this ſeems to have been the firſt idea of medicine. The ancient phyſicians acted chiefly in the character of nurſes. They went very little beyond aliment in their preſcriptions; and even this they generally adminiſtered themſelves, attending the ſick, for that purpoſe, through the whole courſe

courſe of the diſeaſe; which gave them an opportunity not only of marking the changes of diſeaſes with great accuracy, but likewiſe of obſerving the effects of their different applications, and adapting them to the ſymptoms.

The learned Dr. Arbuthnot aſſerts, that by a proper attention to thoſe things which are almoſt within the reach of every body, more good and leſs miſchief will be done in acute diſeaſes than by medicines improperly and unſeaſonably adminiſtered; and that great cures may be effected in chronical diſtempers, by a proper regimen of the diet only. So entirely do the Doctor's ſentiments agree with mine, that I would adviſe every perſon ignorant of phyſic, to confine his practice ſolely to diet, and the other parts of regimen; by which means he may often do much good, and can ſeldom do any hurt.

To render the book more generally uſeful, however, as well as more acceptable to the intelligent part of mankind, I have, in moſt diſeaſes, beſides regimen, recommended ſome of the moſt ſimple and approved forms of medicine, and added ſuch cautions and directions as ſeemed neceſſary for their ſafe adminiſtration. No doubt it would have been more acceptable to many, had it abounded with pompous preſcriptions, and promiſed great cures in conſequence of their uſe; but this was not my plan: I think the adminiſtration of medicines always doubtful, and often dangerous, and

would much rather teach men how to avoid the neceſſity of uſing them, than how they ſhould be uſed.

THERE are, however, ſeveral medicines, and thoſe of conſiderable efficacy, which may be adminiſtered with great freedom, and at the ſame time with ſafety. Phyſicians generally trifle a long time with medicines, before they come to know how to uſe them. Many peaſants at preſent know better how to uſe ſome of the moſt important articles in the *materia medica*, than phyſicians did a century ago; and doubtleſs the ſame obſervation will hold with regard to others ſome time hence. Wherever we were convinced that medicine might be uſed with ſafety, or where the cure depended chiefly upon it, we have taken care to recommend it; but where it was either highly dangerous, or not very neceſſary, it is omitted.

I HAVE not troubled the Reader with an uſeleſs parade of quotations from different authors; but have nevertheleſs made uſe of their obſervations where my own were either defective, or totally wanting. Thoſe to whom I have been moſt obliged were, Ramazini, Arbuthnot, Brookes, Cheyne, Mackenzie, and Tiſſot; the laſt of which, in his *Avis au Peuple*, comes the neareſt to my plan of any author which I have ſeen. I had indeed concerted, and even executed, a great part of my deſign before the Doctor's book appeared in this country, otherwiſe mine had probably never ſeen

the

the light. Had Dr. Tiſſot's plan been as complete as the execution is maſterly, we ſhould have had no occaſion for any new treatiſe of this kind ſoon; but by confining himſelf to the acute diſeaſes, he has, in my opinion, left out the moſt uſeful part of his ſubject. People in acute diſeaſes may ſometimes be their own phyſicians, but in the chronic the cure muſt ever depend chiefly upon the patient's own endeavours. The Doctor has alſo paſſed over the *Prophylaxis*, or preventive part of medicine, very ſlightly, though it is certainly of the greateſt importance in ſuch a performance. He had, no doubt, his reaſons for ſo doing, and we are ſo far from finding fault with him, that we think his performance does great honour both to his head and to his heart.

SEVERAL other foreign phyſicians of note have written on nearly the ſame plan with Tiſſot, as the Baron Van Swieten, phyſician to their Imperial Majeſties, M. Roſen, firſt phyſician of the kingdom of Sweden, &c.; but as theſe gentlemen's productions have never come to my hand, I can ſay nothing concerning them. I cannot help wiſhing, however, that ſome of our diſtinguiſhed countrymen would follow their example. There ſtill remains much to be done on this ſubject, and it does not appear to me how any man could better employ his time or talents, than in eradicating hurtful prejudices, and diffuſing uſeful knowledge among the people.

I KNOW

I KNOW ſome of the Faculty diſapprove of every attempt of this nature, imagining that it would totally deſtroy their influence. But this notion appears to me to be as abſurd as it is illiberal. People in diſtreſs will always apply for relief to men of ſuperior abilities, when they have it in their power; and they will do this with far greater confidence and readineſs when they believe that Medicine is a rational ſcience, than when they take it to be only a matter of mere conjecture. I am far, however, from blaming any man becauſe he differs in opinion from me. Every man has certainly a right to think and act in theſe matters as he pleaſes, nor ſhall any one ever be able to draw me into a diſpute upon this ſubject.

ALL I ſhall ſay with regard to the following Treatiſe is, that I have endeavoured to make it plain and uſeful, and as accurate as my neceſſary avocations would permit. The language indeed is far from being ſo correct as I could have wiſhed; but where Utility is the aim, even critics are ſeldom diſpoſed to cenſure an author for a few inaccuracies of ſtyle. Such as read the book with a view to this kind of criticiſm, will find matter enough, and I ſhall be far from deſpiſing their obſervations; but, as I would ſtill wiſh to render the Performance more generally uſeful, I ſhall eſteem every man my friend who will be ſo kind as to point out any thing that may contribute to that purpoſe.

IT

It was impoſſible to avoid ſome terms of art; but ſuch as are made uſe of are, in general, either explained, or are ſuch as moſt people underſtand. In ſhort, I have endeavoured to write down to the capacities of mankind in general; and, if my Readers do not flatter either themſelves or me, with ſome degree of ſucceſs. This, however, on a medical ſubject, is not ſuch an eaſy matter as ſome may imagine. It is eaſier to make a ſhow of learning than to write plain ſenſe, eſpecially in a ſcience which has been kept at ſuch a diſtance from common obſervation. It would, however, be no difficult matter to prove, that every thing valuable in the practical part of Medicine is within the reach of common ſenſe, and that the Art would loſe nothing by being ſtripped of all that any perſon endued with ordinary abilities cannot comprehend.

INTRODUCTION.

THE improvements in Medicine, ſince the revival of learning, have by no means kept pace with thoſe of the other arts. The reaſon is obvious. Medicine has been ſtudied by few, except thoſe who intended to live by it as a trade. Such, either from a miſtaken zeal for the honour of Medicine, or to raiſe their own importance, have endeavoured to diſguiſe and conceal the art. Medical authors have generally written in a foreign language; and thoſe who were unequal to this taſk, have even valued themſelves upon couching, at leaſt, their preſcriptions, in terms and characters unintelligible to the reſt of mankind.

THE contentions of the clergy, which happened ſoon after the reſtoration of learning, engaged the attention of mankind, and paved the way for that freedom of thought and inquiry which has ſince prevailed in moſt parts of Europe with regard to religious matters. Every man took a ſide in thoſe bloody diſputes; and every gentleman, that he might diſtinguiſh himſelf on one ſide or other, was inſtructed in divinity. This taught men to think and reaſon for themſelves in matters of religion, and

and at laſt totally deſtroyed that complete and abſolute dominion which the clergy had obtained over the minds of men.

THE ſtudy of law has likewiſe, in moſt civilized nations, been juſtly deemed a neceſſary part of the education of a gentleman. Every gentleman ought certainly to know at leaſt the laws of his own country: and, if he were alſo acquainted with thoſe of others, it might be more than barely an ornament to him.

THE different branches of Philoſophy have likewiſe of late been very univerſally ſtudied by all who pretended to a liberal education. The advantages of this are manifeſt. It frees the mind from prejudice and ſuperſtition; fits it for the inveſtigation of truth; induces habits of reaſoning and judging properly; opens an inexhauſtible ſource of entertainment; paves the way to the improvement of arts and agriculture; and qualifies men for acting with propriety in the moſt important ſtations of life.

NATURAL HISTORY has alſo of late become an object of general attention. And it well deſerves to be ſo. Here the uſeful and agreeable are moſt intimately connected. Medicine, however, has not, ſo far as we know, in any country, been reckoned a neceſſary part of the education of a gentleman. But ſurely no ſufficient reaſon can be aſſigned for this omiſſion. No ſcience lays open a more

more extenſive field of uſeful knowledge, or affords more ample entertainment to an inquiſitive mind. Anatomy, Botany, Chymiſtry, and the *Materia Medica* are all branches of Natural Hiſtory, and are fraught with ſuch delight and uſefulneſs, that the man who entirely neglects them has but a ſorry claim either to taſte or learning. If a gentleman has a turn for obſervation, ſays an elegant and ſenſible writer *, ſurely the natural hiſtory of his own ſpecies is a more intereſting ſubject, and preſents a more ample field for the exertion of genius, than the natural hiſtory of ſpiders and cockle-ſhells.

We do not mean that every man ſhould become a phyſician. This would be an attempt as ridiculous as it is impoſſible. All we plead for is, that men of ſenſe and learning ſhould be ſo far acquainted with the general principles of Medicine, as to be in a condition to derive from it ſome of thoſe advantages with which it is fraught; and at the ſame time to guard themſelves againſt the deſtructive influences of Ignorance, Superſtition, and Quackery.

As matters ſtand at preſent, it is eaſier to cheat a man out of his life than of a ſhilling, and almoſt impoſſible either to detect or puniſh the offence. Notwithſtanding this, people ſtill ſhut their eyes, and take every thing upon truſt that is adminiſtered by any pretender to medicine, without daring to aſk him a reaſon for any part of his conduct.

* Obſervations on the Duties and Offices of a Phyſician.

Implicit

Implicit faith, every where elſe the object of ridicule, is ſtill ſacred here. Many of the Faculty are no doubt worthy of all the confidence that can be repoſed in them; but as this can never be the character of every individual in any profeſſion, it would certainly be for the ſafety, as well as the honour of mankind, to have ſome check upon the conduct of thoſe to whom they intruſt ſo valuable a treaſure as Health.

The veil of myſtery which ſtill hangs over Medicine, renders it not only a conjectural, but even a ſuſpicious art. This has been long ago removed from the other ſciences, which induces many to believe that medicine is a mere trick, and that it will not bear a fair and candid examination. Medicine, however, needs only to be better known, in order to ſecure the general eſteem of mankind. Its precepts are ſuch as every wiſe man would chuſe to obſerve, and it forbids nothing but what is incompatible with true happineſs.

Disguising Medicine not only retards its improvement as a ſcience, but expoſes the profeſſion to ridicule, and is injurious to the true intereſts of ſociety. An art founded on obſervation never can arrive at any high degree of improvement, as long as it is confined to a few who make a trade of it. The united obſervations of all the ingenious and ſenſible part of mankind, would do more in a few years towards the improvement of Medicine, than thoſe of the Faculty alone in a great many. Any man can tell when a medicine gives him eaſe as well

well as a phyſician, and if he only knows the name and doſe of the medicine, and the name of the diſeaſe, it is ſufficient to perpetuate the fact. Yet the man who adds one ſingle fact to the ſtock of medical obſervations, does more real ſervice to the art, than he who writes a volume in ſupport of ... favourite hypotheſis.

VERY few of the valuable diſcoveries in Medicine have been made by phyſicians. They have, in general, either been the effect of chance or of neceſſity, and have been uſually oppoſed by the Faculty till every body elſe was convinced of their importance. An implicit faith in the opinions of teachers, an attachment to ſyſtems and eſtabliſhed forms, and the dread of reflections, will always operate upon thoſe who follow Medicine as a trade. Few improvements are to be expected from a man who might ruin his character and family by even the ſmalleſt deviation from an eſtabliſhed rule.

IF men of letters, ſays the author of the performance quoted above, were to claim their right of enquiry into a matter that ſo nearly concerns them, the good effects on Medicine would ſoon appear. Such men would have no ſeparate intereſt from that of the art. They would detect and expoſe aſſuming Ignorance under the maſk of Gravity and Importance, and would be the judges and patrons of modeſt merit. Not having their underſtandings perverted in their youth by falſe theories,

unawed by authority, and unbiaſſed by intereſt, they would canvaſs with freedom the moſt univerſally received principles in Medicine, and expoſe the uncertainty of many of thoſe doctrines, on which a phyſician dares not ſo much as ſeem to doubt.

No argument, continues he, can be brought againſt laying open Medicine, which does not apply with equal, if not greater force, to religion: yet experience has ſhewn, that ſince the laity have aſſerted their right of enquiry into theſe ſubjects, Theology, conſidered as a ſcience, has been improved, the intereſts of real religion have been promoted, and the clergy have become a more learned, a more uſeful, and a more reſpectable body of men, than they ever were in the days of their greateſt power and ſplendor.

Had other medical writers been as honeſt as this gentleman, the art had been upon a very different footing at this day. Moſt of them extol the merit of thoſe men who brought Philoſophy out of the ſchools, and made it the ſcience of mankind. But they never conſider that Medicine at preſent is in nearly the ſame ſituation as Philoſophy was at that time, and that it might be as much improved by being treated in the ſame manner. Indeed, no ſcience can either be rendered rational or uſeful, but by being ſubmitted to the common ſenſe and reaſon of mankind. Theſe alone ſtamp a value upon ſcience; and what will not bear the teſt of theſe, ought to be rejected.

I KNOW it will be ſaid, that diffuſing medical knowledge among the people, might induce them to tamper with medicine, and to truſt to their own ſkill inſtead of calling a phyſician. The reverſe of this, however, is true. Perſons who have moſt knowledge in theſe matters, are commonly moſt ready both to aſk and follow advice, when it is neceſſary. The ignorant are always moſt apt to tamper with Medicine, and have the leaſt confidence in phyſicians. Inſtances of this are daily to be met with among the ignorant peaſants, who, while they abſolutely refuſe to take a medicine which has been preſcribed by a phyſician, will ſwallow, with greedineſs, any thing that is recommended to them by their credulous neighbours. Where men will act even without knowledge, it is certainly more rational to afford them all the light we can, than to leave them intirely in the dark.

IT will alſo be alledged, that laying Medicine more open to mankind would leſſen their faith in it. This would indeed be the caſe with regard to ſome individuals; but it would have a quite contrary effect upon others. I know many people who have the utmoſt dread and horror of every thing preſcribed by a phyſician, but who will, nevertheleſs, very readily take a medicine which they know, and whoſe qualities they are in ſome meaſure acquainted with. Hence it is evident, that the dread ariſes from the doctor, not from the

drug. Nothing ever can or will inſpire mankind with an abſolute confidence in phyſicians, but an open, frank, and undiſguiſed behaviour. As long as the leaſt ſhadow of myſtery remains in the conduct of the Faculty, doubts, jealouſies, and ſuſpicions will ariſe in the minds of men.

No doubt, caſes will ſometimes occur, where a prudent phyſician may find it expedient to diſguiſe a medicine. The whims and humours of men muſt be regarded by thoſe who mean to do them ſervice; but this can never affect the general argument in favour of candor and openneſs. A man might as well alledge, becauſe there are knaves and fools in the world, that he ought to take every one he meets for ſuch, and to treat him accordingly. A ſenſible phyſician will always know where diſguiſe is neceſſary; but it ought never to appear on the face of his general conduct.

The appearance of myſtery in the conduct of phyſicians not only renders their art ſuſpicious, but lays the foundations of quackery, which is the very diſgrace of Medicine. No two characters can be more different than that of the honeſt phyſician and the quack; yet they have generally been very much confounded. The line betwixt them is not ſufficiently apparent; at leaſt it is too fine for the general eye. Few perſons are able to diſtinguiſh ſufficiently between the conduct of that man who adminiſters a ſecret medicine, and him who writes a preſcription in myſtical characters and an unknown tongue. Thus the conduct of

the real phyſician, which needs no diſguiſe, gives a ſanction to that of the villain, whoſe whole ſucceſs depends upon ſecrecy.

No laws will ever be able to prevent quackery, as long as people believe that the quack is as honeſt a man, and as well qualified as the phyſician. A very ſmall degree of medical knowledge, however, would be ſufficient to break this ſpell; and nothing elſe can effectually undeceive them. It is the ignorance and credulity of the multitude, with regard to medicine, which renders them ſuch an eaſy prey to every one who has the hardineſs to attack them on this quarter. Nor can the evil be remedied by any other means but by making them wiſer. Indeed, the moſt effectual way to deſtroy quackery in any art or ſcience, is to diffuſe the knowledge of it among mankind. Did phyſicians write their preſcriptions in the common language of the country, and explain their intentions to the patient, as far as he could underſtand them; it would enable him to know when the medicine had the intended effect; would inſpire him with abſolute confidence in the phyſician; and would make him dread and deteſt every man who pretended to cram a ſecret medicine down his throat.

Men, in the different ſtates of ſociety, have very different views of the ſame object. Some time ago it was the practice of this country for every perſon to ſay his prayers in Latin, whether he knew any

thing of that language or not. This conduct, though ſacred in the eyes of our anceſtors, appears ridiculous enough to us; and doubtleſs ſome parts of ours will ſeem as ſtrange to poſterity. Among theſe we may reckon the preſent mode of medical preſcription; and may venture to affirm, that ſome time hence, it will appear to have been completely ridiculous, and a very high burleſque upon the common ſenſe of mankind.

But this practice is not only ridiculous, it is likewiſe dangerous. However capable phyſicians may be of writing Latin, I am certain apothecaries are not always able to read it, and that dangerous miſtakes, in conſequence of this, often happen. But ſuppoſe the apothecary ever ſo capable to read the phyſician's preſcription, he is generally otherwiſe employed, and the buſineſs of making up preſcriptions is left entirely to the apprentice. By this means the greateſt man in the kingdom, even when he employs a firſt rate phyſician, in fact truſts his life in the hands of an idle boy, who has not only the chance of being very ignorant, but likewiſe giddy and careleſs. Miſtakes will ſometimes happen in ſpite of the greateſt care; but where human lives are concerned, all poſſible methods ought certainly to be taken to prevent them. For this reaſon the preſcriptions of phyſicians, inſtead of being couched in myſtical characters and a foreign language, ought, in my humble opinion, to be conceived in the moſt plain and obvious terms imaginable.

DIFFUSING medical knowledge among the people would not only tend to improve the art, and to baniſh quackery, but likewiſe to render Medicine more univerſally uſeful, by extending its benefits to ſociety. However long Medicine may have been known in this country, we will venture to ſay, that many of its moſt important purpoſes have either been overlooked, or very little attended to. The cure of diſeaſes is doubtleſs a matter of great importance; but the preſervation of health is of ſtill greater. This is the concern of every man, and ſurely what relates to it ought to be rendered as plain and obvious to all as poſſible. It is not to be ſuppoſed, that men can be ſufficiently upon their guard againſt diſeaſes, who are totally ignorant of their cauſes. Neither can the legiſlature, in whoſe power it is to do much more for preſerving the public health than can ever be done by the Faculty, exert that power with propriety, and to the greateſt advantage, without ſome degree of medical knowledge.

INDEED, men of every occupation and condition in life might avail themſelves of a degree of medical knowledge; as it would teach them to avoid the dangers peculiar to their reſpective ſtations; which is always eaſier than to remove their effects. Medical knowledge, inſtead of being a check upon the enjoyments of life, only teaches men how to make the moſt of them. It has indeed been ſaid, *that to live medically is to live miſerably:* But it might with equal propriety be ſaid, that to live

reaſonably is to live miſerably. If phyſicians obtrude their own ridiculous whims upon mankind, or lay down rules inconſiſtent with reaſon or common ſenſe, no doubt they will be deſpiſed: But this is not the fault of Medicine. It propoſes no rules that I know, but ſuch as are perfectly conſiſtent with the true enjoyment of life, and every way conducive to the real happineſs of mankind.

We are ſorry indeed to obſerve, that Medicine has hitherto hardly been conſidered as a popular ſcience, but as a branch of knowledge ſolely confined to a particular ſet of men, while all the reſt have been taught, not only to neglect, but even to dread and deſpiſe it. It will however appear, upon a more ſtrict examination, that no ſcience better deſerves their attention, or is more capable of being rendered generally uſeful. People are told that, if they dip the leaſt into medical knowledge, it will render them fanciful, and make them believe they have got every diſeaſe of which they read. Perhaps this may be the caſe with thoſe who are fanciful before-hand. But ſuppoſe it were ſo with others, they muſt ſoon be undeceived. A ſhort time will ſhew them their error, and a little more reading will infallibly correct it. A ſingle inſtance will ſhew the abſurdity of this notion. A ſenſible lady, rather than read a medical performance, which would inſtruct her in the management of her children, muſt leave them entirely to the care and conduct of the moſt ignorant, credulous,

credulous, and ſuperſtitious part of the human ſpecies.

INDEED, no part of Medicine is of more general importance than that which relates to the nurſing and management of children. Yet few parents pay a proper attention to it. They leave the ſole care of their tender offspring, at the very time when care and attention are moſt neceſſary, to hirelings, who are either too careleſs to do their duty, or too ignorant to know it. We will venture to affirm, that more human lives are loſt by the careleſſneſs and inattention of parents and nurſes, than are ſaved by the Faculty; and that the joint and well-conducted endeavours, both of private perſons and the public, for the preſervation of infant lives, would be of more advantage to ſociety, than the whole art of Medicine, upon its preſent footing.

THE benefits of medicine, as a trade, will ever be confined to thoſe who are able to pay for them, and of courſe the far greater part of mankind will be every where deprived of them. Phyſicians, like other people, muſt live by their employment, and the poor muſt either want advice altogether, or take up with that which is worſe than none. There are not, however, anywhere wanting well-diſpoſed people, of better ſenſe, who are willing to ſupply the defect of medical advice to the poor, did not their fear of doing ill often ſuppreſs their inclination to do good. Such people are often deterred from

from the moſt noble and praiſe-worthy actions, by the fooliſh alarms ſounded in their ears by a ſet of men, who, to magnify their own importance, magnify the difficulties of doing good, find fault with what is truly commendable, and ſneer at every attempt to relieve the ſick which is not conducted by the preciſe rules of Medicine. Theſe gentlemen muſt however excuſe me for ſaying, that I have often known ſuch well-diſpoſed perſons do much good; and that their practice, which is generally the reſult of good ſenſe and obſervation, aſſiſted by a little medical reading, is frequently more rational than that of the ignorant retainer to phyſic, who, while he is doſing his patient with medicine, according to the rules of art, often neglects other things of far greater importance.

Many things are neceſſary for the ſick beſides medicine. Nor is the perſon who takes care to procure thoſe for them, of leſs importance than a phyſician. The poor oftener periſh in diſeaſes for want of proper nurſing than of medicine. They are frequently in want of even the neceſſaries of life, and ſtill more ſo of what is proper for a ſick-bed: no one can imagine, who has not been a witneſs of theſe ſituations, how much good a well-diſpoſed perſon may do, by only taking care to have ſuch wants ſupplied. There certainly cannot be a more neceſſary, a more noble, or a more godlike action than to adminiſter to the wants of our fellow-men in diſtreſs. While virtue or religion are known among mankind, this conduct will

will be approved; and while Heaven is juſt, it muſt be rewarded!

Persons who do not chuſe to adminiſter medicine to the ſick, may nevertheleſs direct their regimen. A very great medical author has ſaid, That by diet alone all the intentions of Medicine may be anſwered. No doubt a great many of them may; but there are other things, beſides diet, which ought by no means to be neglected. Many hurtful and deſtructive prejudices, with regard to the treatment of the ſick, ſtill prevail among the people, which perſons of better ſenſe and learning alone can eradicate. To guard the poor againſt the influence of theſe prejudices, and to inſtil into their minds ſome juſt ideas of the importance of proper food, freſh air, cleanlineſs, and other pieces of regimen neceſſary in diſeaſes, would be a work of great merit, and productive of many happy conſequences. A proper regimen, in moſt diſeaſes, is at leaſt equal to medicine, and in many of them it is greatly ſuperior.

To aſſiſt the well-meant endeavours of the humane and benevolent in relieving diſtreſs; to eradicate dangerous and hurtful prejudices; to guard the ignorant and credulous againſt the frauds and impoſitions of quacks and impoſtors; and to ſhow men what is in their own power, both with regard to the prevention and cure of diſeaſes, are certainly objects worthy of the phyſician's attention. Theſe

were

were the leading views in compoſing and publiſhing the following ſheets. They were ſuggeſted by an attention to the conduct of mankind, with regard to Medicine, in the courſe of a pretty long practice in different parts of this iſland, during which the Author has often had occaſion to wiſh that his patients, or thoſe about them, had been poſſeſſed of ſome ſuch plain directory for regulating their conduct. How far he has ſucceeded in his endeavours to ſupply this deficiency, muſt be left for others to determine; but if they be found to contribute, in any meaſure, towards alleviating the calamities of mankind, he will think his labour very well beſtowed.

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PART I.

OF THE

GENERAL CAUSES OF DISEASES.

CHAP. I.

OF CHILDREN.

THE better to trace diſeaſes from their original cauſes, we ſhall take a view of the common treatment of mankind in the ſtate of infancy. In this period of our lives, the foundations of a good or bad conſtitution are generally laid; it is therefore of importance, that parents be well acquainted with the various cauſes which may produce diſeaſes in their offspring.

IT appears from the annual regiſters of the dead, that about one half of the children born in Great Britain die under twelve years of age. To many, indeed, this may appear a natural evil; but, on due examination, it will be found to be one of our own creating. Were the death of infants a natural evil, other animals would be as liable to die young as man; but this we find is by no means the caſe.

It may ſeem ſtrange that man, notwithſtanding his ſuperior reaſon, ſhould fall ſo far ſhort of other animals in the management of his young: But our ſurpriſe will ſoon ceaſe, if we conſider that brutes, guided by inſtinct, never err in this reſpect; while man, truſting ſolely to art, is ſeldom right. Were a catalogue of thoſe children who periſh annually by art alone exhibited to public view, it would aſtoniſh moſt people.

If parents are above taking care of their children, others muſt be employed for that purpoſe: Theſe will always endeavour to recommend themſelves by the appearance of extraordinary ſkill and addreſs. By this means ſuch a number of unneceſſary and deſtructive articles have been introduced into the diet, clothing, &c. of infants, that it is no wonder ſo many of them periſh.

Nothing can be more prepoſterous than for a mother to think it below her to take care of her own child, or to be ſo ignorant as not to know what is proper to be done for it. If we ſearch nature throughout, we cannot find a parallel to this. Every other creature is the nurſe of its own young, and they thrive accordingly. Were the brutes to bring up their young by proxy, they would ſhare the ſame fate with thoſe of the human ſpecies.

We mean not, however, to impoſe it as a taſk upon every mother to ſuckle her own child. This, whatever ſpeculative writers may alledge, is in many caſes impracticable, and would inevitably prove deſtructive both to the mother and child. Women of delicate

delicate conſtitutions, ſubject to low ſpirits, hyſteric fits, or other nervous diſorders, make very bad nurſes: And theſe complaints are now ſo common, that it is rare to find a woman of faſhion free from them: ſuch women, therefore, ſuppoſing them willing, are really unable to ſuckle their own children.

Almost every mother would be in a condition to give ſuck, did mankind live agreeably to Nature: But, whoever conſiders how far we have deviated from her dictates, will not be ſurpriſed to find many of them unable to perform that neceſſary office. Mothers who do not eat a ſufficient quantity of ſolid food, nor enjoy the benefit of free air and exerciſe, can neither have wholeſome humours themſelves, nor afford proper nouriſhment to an infant. Hence children who are ſuckled by delicate women, either die young, or are weak and ſickly all their lives.

When we ſay that mothers are not always in a condition to ſuckle their own children, we would not be underſtood as diſcouraging that practice. Every mother who can, ought certainly to perform ſo tender and agreeable an office. But, ſuppoſe it to be out of her power, ſhe may, nevertheleſs, be of great ſervice to her child. The buſineſs of nurſing is by no means confined to giving ſuck. To a woman who abounds with milk, this is the eaſieſt part of it. Numberleſs other offices are neceſſary for a child, which the mother ought at leaſt to ſee done.

A MOTHER who abandons the fruit of her womb, as ſoon as it is born, to the ſole care of an hireling, hardly deſerves the name of a parent. A child, by being brought up under the mother's eye, not only ſecures her affection, but may reap all the advantages of a mother's care, though it be ſuckled by another. How can a mother be better employed than in ſuperintending the nurſery? This is at once the moſt delightful and important office! yet the moſt trivial buſineſs or inſipid amuſements are often preferred to it. A ſtrong proof both of the bad taſte and wrong education of modern females.

IT is indeed to be regretted, that more care is not beſtowed in teaching the proper management of children to thoſe whom nature has deſigned for mothers. This, inſtead of being made a principal, is ſeldom conſidered as any part of female education. Is it any wonder, when females, ſo educated, come to be mothers, that they ſhould be quite ignorant of the duties belonging to that character? However ſtrange it may appear, it is certainly true, that many mothers, and thoſe of faſhion too, are as ignorant, when they have brought a child into the world, what to do for it, as the infant itſelf. Indeed, the moſt ignorant of the ſex are generally reckoned moſt knowing in the buſineſs of nurſing. Hence, ſenſible people become the dupes of ignorance and ſuperſtition; and the nurſing of children, inſtead of being conducted by reaſon, is the reſult of whim and caprice *.

WERE

* Tacitus, the celebrated Roman hiſtorian, complains greatly of the degeneracy of the Roman ladies in his time, with

WERE the time that is generally ſpent by females in the acquiſition of trifling accompliſhments, employed in learning how to bring up their children; how to dreſs them ſo as not to hurt, cramp, or confine their motions; how to feed them with wholeſome and nouriſhing food; how to exerciſe their tender bodies, ſo as beſt to promote their growth and ſtrength: Were theſe made the objects of female inſtruction, mankind would derive the greateſt advantages from it. But, while the education of females implies little more than what relates to dreſs and public ſhew, we have nothing to expect from them but ignorance, even in the moſt important concerns.

DID mothers reflect on their own importance, and lay it to heart, they would embrace every opportunity of informing themſelves of the duties which they owe to their infant-offspring. It is their province, not only to form the body, but alſo to give the mind its moſt early bias. They have it very much in their power to make men healthy or valetudinary, uſeful in life, or the peſts of ſociety.

BUT the mother is not the only perſon concerned in the management of children. The father has

with regard to the care of their offspring. He ſays that, in former times, the greateſt women in Rome uſed to account it their chief glory to keep the houſe and attend their children; but that now the young infant was committed to the ſole care of ſome poor Grecian wench or other menial ſervant.—We are afraid, wherever luxury and effeminacy prevail, there will be too much ground for this complaint.

an equal intereſt in their welfare, and ought to aſſiſt in every thing that reſpects either the improvement of the body or mind.

It is pity that the men ſhould pay ſo little regard to this matter. Their negligence is one reaſon why females know ſo little of it. Women will ever be deſirous to excel in ſuch accompliſhments as recommend them to the other ſex. But men generally keep at ſuch a diſtance from even the ſmalleſt acquaintance with the affairs of the nurſery, that many would eſteem it an affront, were they ſuppoſed to know any thing of them. Not ſo, however, with the kennel or the ſtables: A gentleman of the firſt rank is not aſhamed to give directions concerning the management of his dogs or horſes, yet would bluſh were he ſurpriſed in performing the ſame office for that being who derived its exiſtence from himſelf, who is the heir of his fortunes, and the future hope of his country.

Even phyſicians themſelves have not been ſufficiently attentive to the management of children: That has been generally conſidered as the ſole province of old women, while men of the firſt character in phyſic have refuſed to viſit infants even when ſick. Such conduct in the faculty has not only cauſed this branch of medicine to be neglected, but has alſo encouraged the other ſex to aſſume an abſolute title to preſcribe for children in the moſt dangerous diſeaſes. The conſequence is, that a phyſician is ſeldom called till the good women have exhauſted all their ſkill; when his attendance can only

only ſerve to divide the blame and appeaſe the diſconſolate parents.

Nurses ſhould do all in their power to prevent diſeaſes; but, when a child is taken ill, ſome perſon of ſkill ought immediately to be conſulted. The diſeaſes of chiſdren are generally acute, and the leaſt delay is dangerous.

Were phyſicians more attentive to the diſeaſes of infants, they would not only be better qualified to treat them properly when ſick, but likewiſe to give uſeful directions for their management when well. The diſeaſes of children are by no means ſo difficult to be underſtood as many imagine. It is true, they cannot tell their complaints; but the cauſes of them may be pretty certainly diſcovered, by putting proper queſtions to the nurſes and ſuch as are about them. Beſides, the diſeaſes of infants, being leſs complicated, are eaſier cured than thoſe of adults *.

It is really aſtoniſhing, that ſo little attention ſhould in general be paid to the preſervation of infants. What labour and expence are daily be-

* The common opinion, that the diſeaſes of infants are hard to diſcover and difficult to cure, has deterred many phyſicians from paying that attention to them which they deſerve. I can however, from experience, declare that this opinion is without foundation, and that the diſeaſes of infants are neither ſo difficult to diſcover nor ſo ill to cure as thoſe of adults. This we hope will induce practitioners to pay more regard to the complaints of their young patients, and not to leave them intirely in the hands of old women.

ſtowed to prop an old tottering carcaſe for a few years, while thouſands of thoſe, who might be uſeful in life, periſh without being regarded! Mankind are too apt to value things according to their preſent, not their future, uſefulneſs. Tho' this be of all others the moſt erroneous method of eſtimation; yet, upon no other principle is it poſſible to account for the general indifference with reſpect to the death of infants.

Of diſeaſed parents.

ONE great ſource of the diſeaſes of children is, the UNHEALTHINESS OF PARENTS. It would be as reaſonable to expect a rich crop from a barren ſoil, as that ſtrong and healthy children ſhould be born of parents whoſe conſtitutions have been worn out with intemperance or diſeaſe.

AN ingenious writer obſerves *, that on the conſtitution of mothers depends originally that of their offſpring. No one who believes this will be ſurpriſed, on a view of the female world, to find diſeaſes and death ſo frequent among children. A delicate female, brought up within doors, an utter ſtranger to exerciſe and open air, who lives on tea and other ſlops, may bring a child into the world, but it will hardly be fit to live. The firſt blaſt of diſeaſe will nip the tender plant in the bud: Or, ſhould it ſtruggle through a few years exiſtence, its feeble frame, ſhaken with convulſions from every trivial cauſe, will be unable to perform the common functions of life, and prove a burden to ſociety.

* Rouſſeau.

IT,

If, to the delicacy of mothers, we add the irregular lives of fathers, we ſhall ſee further cauſe to believe that children are often hurt by the conſtitution of their parents. A ſickly frame may be originally induced by hardſhips or intemperance, but chiefly by the latter. It is impoſſible that a courſe of vice ſhould not ſpoil the beſt conſtitution: And, did the evil terminate here, it would be a juſt puniſhment for the folly of the ſufferer; but, when once a diſeaſe is contracted and rivetted in the habit, it is entailed on poſterity. What a dreadful inheritance is the gout, the ſcurvy, or the kings-evil, to tranſmit to our offspring! How happy had it been for the heir of many a great eſtate, had he been born a beggar, rather than to inherit his father's fortunes at the expence of inheriting his diſeaſes!

No perſon who labours under any incurable malady ought to marry. He thereby not only ſhortens his own life, but tranſmits miſery to others: But, when both parties are deeply tainted with the ſcrophula, the ſcurvy, or the like, the effects muſt be ſtill worſe. Such will either have no iſſue at all, or thoſe whom they have muſt be miſerable indeed. Want of attention to theſe things, in forming connections for life, has rooted out more families than plague, famine, or the ſword; and, ſo long as theſe connections are formed from mercenary views, the evil will be continued.

In our matrimonial contracts, it is amazing ſo little regard is had to the health and form of the object.

object. Our ſportſmen know, that the generous courſer cannot be bred out of the foundered jade, nor the ſagacious ſpaniel out of the ſnarling cur. This is ſettled upon immutable laws. The man who marries a woman of a ſickly conſtitution, and deſcended of unhealthy parents, whatever his views may be, cannot be ſaid to act a prudent part. A puny ſcrophulous woman may prove fertile; ſhould this be the caſe, the family muſt become an infirmary: What proſpect of happineſs the father of ſuch a family has, we ſhall leave any one to judge.

The Jews, by their laws, were, in certain caſes, forbid to have any manner of commerce with the diſeaſed; and indeed to this all wiſe legiſlators ought to have a ſpecial regard. In ſome countries, diſeaſed perſons have actually been forbid to marry. This is an evil of a complicated kind, a natural deformity, and political miſchief; and therefore requires a public conſideration.

Such children as have the misfortune to be born of diſeaſed parents, will require to be nurſed with greater care than others. This is the only way to make amends for the defects of conſtitution; and it will often go a great length. A healthy nurſe, wholeſome air, and ſufficient exerciſe, will do wonders. But, when theſe are neglected, little is to be expected from any other quarter. The defects of conſtitution cannot be ſupplied by medicine.

Those

THOSE who inherit any family-diſeaſe ought to be very circumſpect in their manner of living. They ſhould conſider well the nature of ſuch diſeaſe, and guard againſt it by a proper regimen. It is certain, that family-diſeaſes have often, by proper care, been kept off for one generation; and there is reaſon to believe, that, by perſiſting in the ſame courſe, ſuch diſeaſes might at length be wholely eradicated. This is a ſubject very little regarded, though of the greateſt importance. Family-conſtitutions are as capable of improvement as family-eſtates; and the libertine, who impairs the one, does greater injury to his poſterity, than the prodigal who ſquanders away the other.

Of the clothing of children.

THE CLOTHING of an infant is ſo ſimple a matter, that it is ſurpriſing how any perſon ſhould err with regard to it; yet many children loſe their lives, and others are deformed, by inattention to this article.

NATURE knows no other uſe of clothes to an infant, but to keep it warm. All that is neceſſary for this purpoſe, is to wrap it in a ſoft looſe covering. Were a mother left to the dictates of nature alone, ſhe would certainly follow this method. But the buſineſs of dreſſing an infant has long been out of the hands of mothers, and has at laſt become a ſecret which none but adepts pretend to underſtand.

FROM the moſt early ages it has been thought neceſſary, that a woman in labour ſhould have ſome

ſome perſon to attend her. This in time became a buſineſs; and, as in all others, thoſe who were employed in it ſtrove to outdo one another in the different branches of their profeſſion. The dreſſing of a child came of courſe to be conſidered as the midwife's province, who no doubt imagined, that the more dexterity ſhe could ſhew in this article, the more her ſkill would be admired. Her attempts were ſeconded by the vanity of parents, who, too often deſirous of making a ſhew of the infant as ſoon as it was born, were ambitious to have as much finery heaped upon it as poſſible. Thus it came to be thought as neceſſary for a midwife to excel in bracing and dreſſing an infant, as for a ſurgeon to be expert in applying bandages to a broken limb; and the poor child, as ſoon as it came into the world, had as many rollers and wrappers applied to its body, as if every bone had been fractured in the birth; while theſe were often ſo tight, as not only to gall and wound its tender frame, but even to obſtruct the motion of the heart, lungs, and other organs neceſſary for life.

In ſeveral parts of Britain, the practice of rolling children with ſo many bandages is now, in ſome meaſure, laid aſide; but it would ſtill be a difficult taſk to perſuade the generality of women, that the ſhape of a child does not intirely depend on the care of the midwife. So far, however, are all their endeavours to mend the ſhape of children from being ſucceſsful, that they conſtantly

operate

operate the contrary way, and mankind become deformed juſt in proportion to the means uſed to prevent it. How little deformity of body is to be found among uncivilized nations? So little indeed, that it is vulgarly believed they put all their deformed children to death. The truth is, they hardly know ſuch a thing as a deformed child. Neither ſhould we, if we followed their example. Savage nations never think of manacling their children. They allow them the full uſe of every organ, carry them abroad in the open air, waſh their bodies daily in cold water, *&c.* By this management, their children become ſo ſtrong and hardy, that, by the time our puny infants get out of the nurſe's arms, theirs are able to ſhift for themſelves.

Among brute animals, no art is neceſſary to procure a fine ſhape. Though many of them are extremely delicate when they come into the world, yet we never find them grow crooked for want of ſwaddling-bands. Is nature leſs generous to the human kind? No: But we take the buſineſs out of her hands.

Not only the analogy of other animals, but the very feelings of infants tell us, that they ought to be kept eaſy and free from all preſſure. They cannot indeed tell their complaints; but they can ſhew ſigns of pain; and this they never fail to do, by crying, when pinched by their clothes. No ſooner are they freed from their bracings, than they

they ſeem pleaſed and happy; yet, ſtrange infatuation! the moment they hold their peace, they are again committed to their chains.

If we conſider the body of an infant as a bundle of ſoft pipes, repleniſhed with fluids in continual motion, the danger of preſſure will appear in the ſtrongeſt light. Nature, in order to make way for the growth of children, has formed their bodies ſoft and flexible; and, leſt they ſhould receive any injury from preſſure in the womb, has ſurrounded the *fœtus* every where with fluids. This ſhews the care which nature takes to prevent all unequal preſſure on the bodies of infants, and to defend them againſt every thing that might in the leaſt cramp or confine their motions.

Even the bones of an infant are ſo ſoft and cartilaginous, that they readily yield to the ſlighteſt preſſure, and eaſily aſſume a bad ſhape, which can never after be remedied. Hence it is, that ſo many people appear with high ſhoulders, crooked ſpines, and flat breaſts, who were as well proportioned at their birth as others, but had the misfortune to be ſqueezed out of ſhape by the application of ſtays and bandages.

Preſſure, by obſtructing the circulation, likewiſe prevents the equal diſtribution of nouriſhment to the different parts of the body, by which means the growth becomes unequal. One part of the body grows too large, while another remains too ſmall; and thus in time the whole frame becomes diſproportioned and misſhapen. To this we muſt add

add, that when a child is cramped in its clothes, it naturally ſhrinks from the part that is hurt; and, by putting its body into unnatural poſtures, it becomes deformed by habit.

Deformity of body may indeed proceed from weakneſs or diſeaſes; but, in general, it is the effect of improper clothing. Nine tenths, at leaſt, of the deformity amongſt mankind, muſt be imputed to this cauſe. A deformed body is not only diſagreeable to the eye, but by a bad figure both the animal and vital functions muſt be impeded, and of courſe health impaired. Hence few people, remarkably misſhapen, are ſtrong or healthy.

The new motions which commence at the birth, as the circulation of the whole maſs of blood through the lungs, reſpiration, the periſtaltic motion, *&c.* afford another ſtrong argument for keeping the body of an infant free from all preſſure. Theſe organs not having been accuſtomed to move, are eaſily ſtopped; but, when this happens, death muſt enſue. Hardly any method could be deviſed more effectually to ſtop theſe motions than bracing the body too tight with rollers *, bandages, *&c.* Were theſe to be applied in the ſame manner to the body of an adult, for an equal

* This is by no means inveighing againſt a thing that does not happen. In many parts of Britain at this day, a roller, five or ſix feet in length, is applied tightly round the child's body as ſoon as it is born.

length

length of time, they could hardly fail to hurt the digeſtion and make him ſick. How much more hurtful they muſt prove to the tender bodies of infants, we ſhall leave any one to judge.

WHOEVER conſiders theſe things will not be ſurpriſed, that ſo many children die of convulſions ſoon after the birth. Theſe fits are generally attributed to ſome inward cauſe; but, in fact, they oftner proceed from our own imprudent conduct. I have known a child ſeized with convulſion-fits, ſoon after the midwife had done ſwaddling it, who, upon taking off the rollers and bandages, was immediately relieved, and never had any convulſion-fits afterwards. Numerous examples of this might be given, were they neceſſary.

IT would be ſafer to fix on the clothes of an infant with ſtrings than pins, as theſe often gall and irritate their tender ſkins, and occaſion convulſions. Pins have been found ſticking above half an inch into the body of a child after it had died of convulſion-fits, which, in all probability, proceeded from that cauſe.

CHILDREN are not only hurt by the tightneſs of their clothes, but alſo by the quantity. Every child has ſome degree of fever after the birth; and, if it be loaded with too many clothes, the fever muſt be increaſed. But that is not all; the child is generally laid in bed with the mother, who is often likewiſe feveriſh; to which we may add the heat of the bed-chamber, the wines, and other

heating things, too frequently given to children immediately after the birth. When all these are combined, which does not seldom happen, they must increase the fever to such a degree as will endanger the life of the infant.

The danger of keeping infants too hot, will further appear, if we consider, that, after they have been for some time in the situation mentioned above, they are often sent into the country to be nursed in a cold house. Is it any wonder, if a child, from such a transition, catches a mortal cold, or contracts some other fatal disease? When an infant is kept too hot, its lungs, not being sufficiently expanded, are apt to remain weak and flaccid for life; from hence proceed coughs, consumptions, and other diseases of the breast.

It would answer little purpose to specify the particular pieces of dress proper for an infant. These will always vary in different places, according to custom and the humour of parents. The great rule to be observed is, *That a child have no more clothes than are necessary to keep it warm, and that they be quite easy for its body.*

Stays are the very bane of infants. A volume would not suffice to point out all the bad effects of this ridiculous piece of dress. The madness in favour of stays seems, however, to be somewhat abated; and it is to be hoped the world will, in time, become wise enough to know, that the hu-

man ſhape does not ſolely depend upon whale-bone and bend-leather *.

We ſhall only add, with reſpect to the clothes of children, that they ought to be kept very clean. Children perſpire more than adults; and, if their clothes be not frequently changed, they become very hurtful. Dirty clothes not only gall and fret the tender ſkins of infants, but likewiſe occaſion ill ſmells; and, what is worſe, tend to produce vermin and cutaneous diſeaſes.

Cleanliness is not only agreeable to the eye, but tends greatly to preſerve the health of children. It promotes the perſpiration, and, by that means, frees the body from ſuperfluous humours, which, if retained, could not fail to occaſion diſeaſes. No mother or nurſe can have any excuſe for allowing a child to be dirty. Poverty may oblige her to give it coarſe clothes; but, if ſhe does not keep them clean, it muſt be her own fault.

Of the food of children.

Nature not only points out the food proper for an infant, but actually prepares it. This, however, is not ſufficient to prevent ſome who think themſelves wiſer than nature, from attempting to bring up their children without her proviſion. Nothing can ſhew the diſpoſition which mankind have to depart from nature, more than their endea-

* Stays made of bend-leather are worn by all the women of lower ſtation in many parts of England.

vouring

vouring to bring up children without the breaſt. The mother's milk, or that of a healthy nurſe, is unqueſtionably the beſt food for an infant. Neither art nor nature can afford a proper ſubſtitute for it. Children may ſeem to thrive for a few months without the breaſt; but, when teething, the ſmall-pox, and other diſeaſes incident to childhood, come on, they generally periſh.

A CHILD, ſoon after the birth, ſhews an inclination to ſuck; and there is no reaſon why it ſhould not be gratified. It is true, the mother's milk does not always come immediately after the birth; but this is the way to bring it: Beſides, the firſt milk that the child can ſqueeze out of the breaſt anſwers the purpoſe of cleanſing better than all the drugs in the apothecary's ſhop, and at the ſame time prevents inflammations of the breaſt, fevers, and other diſeaſes incident to mothers.

IT is ſtrange how people came to think that the firſt thing given to a child ſhould be drugs. This is beginning with medicine by times, and no wonder that they generally end with it. It ſometimes happens, indeed, that a child does not diſcharge the *meconium* ſo ſoon as could be wiſhed. This has induced phyſicians, in ſuch caſes, to give ſomething of an opening nature to cleanſe the firſt paſſages. Midwives have improved upon this hint, and never fail to give ſyrups, oils, *&c.* whether they be neceſſary or not. Cramming an infant with ſuch indigeſtible ſtuff, as ſoon as it is

born, can hardly fail to make it ſick, and is more likely to occaſion diſeaſes, than to prevent them. Children are ſeldom long after the birth without having paſſage both by ſtool and urine; though theſe evacuations may be wanting for ſome time without any danger. But, if children muſt have ſomething before they be allowed the breaſt, let it be a little thin water-pap, to which may be added an equal quantity of new milk. If this be given, without any wines, ſugars, or ſpiceries, it will neither heat the blood, load the ſtomach, nor occaſion gripes.

Upon the firſt ſight of an infant, almoſt every perſon is ſtruck with the idea of its being weak, feeble, and wanting ſupport. This naturally ſuggeſts the need of cordials. Accordingly, wines are univerſally mixed with the firſt food of children. Nothing can be more fallacious than this way of reaſoning, or more hurtful to infants than the conduct founded upon it. Children need very little food for ſome time after the birth; and what they receive ſhould be thin, weak, light, and of a cooling quality. A very ſmall quantity of wine, or even ſugar, is ſufficient to heat and inflame the blood of an infant; but every perſon, converſant in theſe matters, muſt know, that moſt of the diſeaſes of infants proceed from the heat of their humours.

If the mother or nurſe has enough of milk, the child will need little or no other food before the third

third or fourth month. It will then be proper to give it, once or twice a day, a little of ſome food that is eaſy of digeſtion; as water-pap, milk-pottage, weak broth with bread in it, and ſuch like. This will eaſe the mother, will accuſtom the child by degrees to take food, and will render the weaning both leſs difficult and leſs dangerous. All great and ſudden tranſitions are to be avoided in nurſing. For this purpoſe, the food of children ought not only to be ſimple, but to reſemble, as nearly as poſſible, the properties of milk. Indeed milk itſelf ſhould make a principal part of their food, not only before they are weaned, but for a long time after.

Next to milk, we would recommend good light bread. Bread may be given to a child as ſoon as it ſhews an inclination to chew; and it may at all times be allowed as much as it pleaſes. The very chewing of bread will promote the cutting of the teeth, and the diſcharge of *ſaliva*, while, by mixing with the nurſe's milk in the ſtomach, it will afford an excellent nouriſhment. Children diſcover an early inclination to chew whatever is put into their hands. Parents obſerve the inclination, but generally miſtake the object. Inſtead of giving the child ſomething which may at once exerciſe its gums and afford it nouriſhment, they commonly put into its hands a piece of hard metal or impenetrable coral. A cruſt of bread is the beſt gum-ſtick. It not only anſwers the purpoſe

better than any thing elſe, but has the additional properties of nouriſhing the child and carrying the *ſaliva* down to the ſtomach, which is too valuable a liquor to be loſt.

Bread, beſides being uſed dry, may be many ways prepared into food for children. One of the beſt methods is to boil it in water, afterwards pouring the water off, and mixing with the bread a proper quantity of new milk unboiled. Milk is both more wholeſome and nouriſhing this way than boiled, and is leſs apt to occaſion coſtiveneſs. For a child farther advanced, bread may be mixed in veal or chicken broth, made into puddings, or the like. Bread is a proper food for children at all times, provided it be plain, made of wholeſome grain, and well-fermented; but, when enriched with fruits, ſugars, or ſuch things, it becomes very unwholeſome.

It is ſoon enough to allow children animal food when they have got teeth to eat it. They ſhould never taſte it till after they are weaned, and even then they ought to uſe it ſparingly. Indeed, when children live wholely on vegetable food, it is apt to ſour their ſtomachs; but, on the other hand, too much fleſh heats the blood, and occaſions fevers and other inflammatory diſeaſes. This plainly points out a due mixture of animal and vegetable food as moſt proper for children.

Few things are more hurtful to children, than the common method of ſweetening their food. It entices

entices them to take more food than they ought to do, which makes them grow fat and bloated. It is pretty certain, if the food of children were quite plain, that they would never take more than enough. The exceſſes of children are entirely owing to nurſes. If a child be gorged with food at all hours, and enticed to take it, by making it ſweet and agreeable to the palate, is it any wonder that ſuch a child ſhould in time be induced to crave more food than it ought to have?

Children may be hurt by too little as well as too much food. After a child is weaned, it ought to be fed four or five times a day; but ſhould never be accuſtomed to eat in the night; neither ſhould it have too much at a time. Children thrive beſt with ſmall quantities of food frequently taken. This neither overloads the ſtomach, nor hurts the digeſtion, and is certainly moſt agreeable to nature.

Writers on nurſing have inveighed with ſuch vehemence againſt giving children too much food, that many parents, by endeavouring to ſhun that error, have run into the oppoſite extreme, and ruined the conſtitutions of their children. But the error of pinching children in their food is more hurtful than the other extreme. Nature has many ways of relieving herſelf when overloaded; but a child, who is pinched with hunger, will never become a ſtrong or healthy man. That errors are frequently committed on

both ſides, we are ready to acknowledge; but where one child is hurt by the quantity of its food, ten ſuffer from the quality. This is the principal evil, and claims our ſtricteſt attention.

MANY people imagine, that the ſort of food which they love themſelves cannot be bad for their children: But this notion is very abſurd. In the more advanced periods of life we often acquire an inclination for food which, when children, we could not endure. Beſides, there are many things that may agree very well with the ſtomach of a grown perſon, which would be hurtful to a child; as high-ſeaſoned, ſalted, and ſmoke-dried proviſions, &c. It would alſo be improper to feed children with fat meat, ſtrong broths, rich ſoups, or the like.

ALL ſtrong liquors are hurtful to children. Some parents teach their children to guzzle ale, and other ſtrong liquors, at every meal. Such a practice cannot fail to do miſchief. Thoſe children ſeldom eſcape the violence of the ſmall-pox, meaſles, hooping cough, or ſome inflammatory diſorder. Milk, water, butter-milk, or whey, are the moſt proper for children to drink. If they have any thing ſtronger, it may be fine ſmall-beer, or a little wine mixed with water. The ſtomachs of children can digeſt well enough without the aſſiſtance of warm ſtimulants: Beſides, being naturally hot, they are eaſily hurt by every thing of a heating quality.

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Few things are more hurtful to children than unripe fruits. They weaken the powers of digeſtion, and ſour and relax the ſtomach, by which means it becomes a proper neſt for inſects. Children indeed ſhew a great inclination for fruit, and I am apt to believe, that if good ripe fruit were allowed them in proper quantity, it would have no bad effects. We never find a natural inclination wrong, if properly regulated. Fruits are generally of a cooling nature, and correct the heat and acrimony of the humours. This is what moſt children want; only care ſhould be taken leſt they exceed. Indeed, the beſt way to prevent children from going to exceſs in the uſe of fruit, or eating that which is bad, is to allow them a proper quantity of what is good.

Roots which contain a crude viſcid juice ſhould be ſparingly given to children. They fill the body with groſs humours, and tend to produce eruptive diſeaſes. This caution is peculiarly neceſſary for the poor; glad to obtain what will fill the bellies of their children for a little money, they ſtuff them two or three times a-day with potatoes, or other crude vegetables. Children had better eat a ſmall quantity of food which yields a wholeſome nouriſhment, than be crammed with what their digeſtive powers are unable properly to aſſimulate.

Butter ought likewiſe to be ſparingly given to children. It both relaxes the ſtomach, and produces groſs humours. Indeed, moſt things that are fat or oily, have this effect. Butter, when ſalted,

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becomes ſtill more hurtful. Inſtead of butter, ſo liberally given to children in moſt parts of Britain, we would recommend honey. Honey is not only wholeſome, but cooling, cleanſing, and tends to ſweeten the humours. Children who eat honey are ſeldom troubled with worms: They are alſo leſs ſubject to cutaneous diſeaſes, as itch, ſcabbed-head, &c.

MANY people err in thinking that the diet of children ought to be altogether moiſt. When children live entirely upon ſlops, it relaxes their ſolids, renders them weak, and diſpoſes them to the rickets, the ſcrophula, and other glandular diſorders. Relaxation is one of the moſt general cauſes of the diſeaſes of children. Every thing therefore which tends to unbrace their ſolids, ought to be carefully avoided.

WE would not be underſtood, by theſe obſervations, as confining children to any particular kind of food. Their diet may be frequently varied, provided always that ſufficient regard be had to ſimplicity.

Of the exerciſe of children.

OF all the cauſes which conſpire to render the lives of children ſhort and miſerable, none has greater influence than the want of proper EXERCISE: Healthy parents, wholeſome food, and proper clothing, will avail little, where exerciſe is neglected. Sufficient exerciſe will make up for ſeveral defects in nurſing; but nothing can ſupply

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the want of it. It is abſolutely neceſſary to the health, the growth, and the ſtrength of children.

The deſire of exerciſe is almoſt coeval with life itſelf. Were this principle attended to, many diſeaſes might be prevented. But, while indolence and ſedentary employments prevent two-thirds of mankind from either taking ſufficient exerciſe themſelves, or giving it to their children, what have we to expect but diſeaſes and deformity among their offspring? The rickets, ſo deſtructive to children, never appeared in Britain till manufactures began to flouriſh, and people, attracted by the love of gain, left the country to follow ſedentary employments in great towns. It is amongſt theſe people that this diſeaſe chiefly prevails, and not only deforms, but kills many of their offspring.

The conduct of other young animals ſhews the propriety of giving exerciſe to children. Every other animal makes uſe of its organs of motion as ſoon as it can, and many of them, even when under no neceſſity of moving in queſt of food, cannot be reſtrained without force. This is evidently the caſe with the calf, the lamb, and moſt other young animals. If theſe creatures were not permitted to friſk about, and take exerciſe, they would ſoon die or become diſeaſed. The ſame inclination appears very early in the human ſpecies; but, as they are not able to take exerciſe themſelves, it is the buſineſs of their parents and nurſes to aſſiſt them.

CHILDREN may be exercised various ways. The best method, while they are light, is to carry them about in the nurse's arms. This gives the nurse an opportunity of talking to the child, and of pointing out every thing that may please and delight its fancy. Besides, it is much safer than swinging an infant in a machine, or leaving it to the care of such as are not fit to take care of themselves. Nothing can be more foolish than to set one child to keep another: this conduct has proved fatal to many infants, and has rendered others miserable for life.

WHEN children begin to walk, the safest and best method of leading them about is by the hands. The common way, of swinging them in leading-strings fixed to their backs, has many bad consequences. It makes them throw their bodies forward, and press with their whole weight upon the breast: By this means the breathing is obstructed, the breast flattened, and the bowels compressed; which must hurt the digestion, and occasion consumptions of the lungs, and other diseases.

IT is a common notion, that if children be set upon their feet too soon, their legs will become crooked. There is reason to believe, that the very reverse of this is true. Every member acquires strength in proportion as it is exercised. The limbs of children are weak indeed, but their bodies are proportionably light; and, had they skill to direct themselves, they would soon be able to support their own weight. Who ever heard of any other animal that became crooked by using its legs too soon?

ſoon? Indeed, if a child be not permitted to make uſe of its legs till a conſiderable time after the birth, and be then ſet upon them with its whole weight at once, there may be ſome danger; but this proceeds intirely from the child's not having been accuſtomed to uſe its legs from the beginning.

MOTHERS of the poorer ſort think they are great gainers by making their children lie or ſit while they themſelves work. In this they are greatly miſtaken. By neglecting to give their children exerciſe, they are obliged to keep them a long time before they can do any thing for themſelves, and to ſpend more on medicine than would have paid for proper care.

To take care of their children, is the moſt profitable buſineſs in which even the poor can employ themſelves: But, alas! it is not always in their power. Poverty often obliges them to neglect their offspring, in order to procure the neceſſaries of life. When this is the caſe, it becomes the intereſt as well as the duty of the public to aſſiſt them. Ten thouſand times more benefit would accrue to the State, by enabling the poor to bring up their own children, than from all the * hoſpitals that ever can be erected for that purpoſe.

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* If it were made the intereſt of the poor to keep their children alive, we ſhould loſe very few of them. A ſmall premium given annually to each poor family, for every child they have alive at the year's end, would ſave more infant-lives than if the whole revenue of the crown were expended on hoſpitals for

WHOEVER conſiders the ſtructure of the human body, will ſoon be convinced of the neceſſity of exerciſe for the health of children. The body is compoſed of an infinite number of veſſels, whoſe fluids cannot be puſhed on without the action and preſſure of the muſcles. But, if the fluids remain inactive, obſtructions muſt happen, and the humours will of courſe be vitiated, which cannot fail to occaſion diſeaſes. Nature has furniſhed both the veſſels which carry the blood and lymph with numerous valves, in order that the action of every muſcle might puſh forward their contents; but without action, this admirable contrivance can have no effect. The final cauſe of this part of the animal œconomy proves to a demonſtration the neceſſity of exerciſe for the preſervation of health.

ARGUMENTS to ſhew the importance of exerciſe might be drawn from every part of the animal œconomy: Without exerciſe, the circulation of the blood cannot be properly carried on, nor the different ſecretions duly performed; without exerciſe, the humours cannot be properly prepared, nor the ſolids rendered ſtrong or firm. The action of the heart, the motion of the lungs, and all the vital functions, are greatly aſſiſted by exerciſe. But,

for this purpoſe. This would make the poor eſteem fertility a bleſſing; whereas many of them think it the greateſt curſe that can befal them; and, in place of wiſhing their children to live, ſo far does poverty get the better of natural affection, that they are often very happy when they die.

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to point out the manner in which theſe effects are produced, would lead us farther into the œconomy of the human body, than moſt of thoſe for whom this treatiſe is intended would be able to follow. We ſhall therefore only add, that, where exerciſe is neglected, none of the animal functions can be duly performed; and, when that is the caſe, the whole conſtitution muſt go to wreck.

A good conſtitution ought certainly to be our firſt object in the management of children. It lays a foundation for their being uſeful and happy in life; and whoever neglects it, not only fails in his duty to his offspring, but to ſociety.

One very common error of parents, by which they hurt the conſtitutions of their children, is the ſending them too young to ſchool. This is often done ſolely to prevent trouble. When the child is at ſchool, he needs no keeper. Thus the ſchoolmaſter is made the nurſe; and the poor child is fixed to a ſeat ſeven or eight hours a-day, which time ought to be ſpent in exerciſe and diverſions. Sitting ſo long cannot fail to produce the worſt effects upon the body; nor is the mind leſs injured. Early application weakens the faculties, and often fixes in the mind an averſion to books, which continues for life.

But, ſuppoſe this were the way to make children ſcholars, it certainly ought not to be done at the expence of their conſtitutions. Our anceſtors, who ſeldom went to ſchool very young, were not leſs learned than we. But we imagine the boy's education

education will be quite marred, unleſs he be carried to ſchool in his nurſe's arms. No wonder if ſuch hot-bed plants ſeldom become either ſcholars or men!

Not only the confinement of children in public ſchools, but their number, often proves hurtful. Children are much injured by being kept in crowds within doors; their breathing not only renders the place unwholeſome, but, if any one of them happens to be diſeaſed, the reſt catch the infection. A ſingle child has been often known to communicate the bloody-flux, the hooping-cough, the itch, or other diſeaſes, to almoſt every individual in a numerous ſchool.

But, if faſhion muſt prevail, and infants are to be ſent to ſchool, we would recommend it to teachers, as they value the intereſts of ſociety, not to confine them too long at a time, but to allow them to run about and play at ſuch active diverſions as may promote their growth and ſtrengthen their conſtitutions. Were boys, inſtead of being whipped for ſtealing an hour to run, ride, ſwim, or the like, encouraged to employ their time in theſe manly and uſeful exerciſes, it would produce many excellent effects.

It would be of great ſervice to boys, if, at a proper age, they were taught the military exerciſe This would increaſe their ſtrength, inſpire them with courage, and, when their country called for their aſſiſtance, would enable them to act in her defence, without being obliged to undergo a tedi-

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ous and troubleſome courſe of inſtructions, at a time when they are leſs fit to learn new motions, geſtures, &c.

An effeminate education will infallibly ſpoil the beſt natural conſtitution; and, if boys are brought up in a more delicate manner than even girls ought to be, they never will be men.

Nor is the common education of girls leſs hurtful to the conſtitution than that of boys. Miſs is ſet down to her frame, before ſhe can put on her clothes; and is taught to believe, that to excel at the needle is the only thing that can intitle her to general eſteem. It is unneceſſary here to inſiſt upon the dangerous conſequences of obliging girls to ſit too much. They are pretty well known, and are too often felt at a certain time of life. But ſuppoſe this critical period to be got over, greater dangers ſtill await them when they come to be mothers. Women who have been early accuſtomed to a ſedentary life, generally run great hazard in childbed; while thoſe who have been uſed to romp about, and take ſufficient exerciſe, are ſeldom in any danger.

One hardly meets with a girl who can, at the ſame time, boaſt of early performances by the needle, and a good conſtitution. Cloſe and early confinement generally occaſions indigeſtions, headachs, pale complexions, pain of the ſtomach, loſs of appetite, coughs, conſumptions of the lungs, and deformity of body. The laſt of theſe indeed is not to be wondered at, conſidering the aukward

poſtures in which girls ſit at many kinds of needle-work, and the delicate flexible ſtate of their bodies in the early periods of life.

Would mothers, inſtead of having their daughters inſtructed in many trifling accompliſhments, teach them plain work and houſewifery, and allow them ſufficient time to run about in the open air, they would both make them more healthy mothers, and more uſeful members of ſociety. I am no enemy to genteel accompliſhments, but would have them only conſidered as ſecondary, and always diſregarded when they impair health.

Many people imagine it a great advantage for children to be early taught to earn their bread. This opinion is certainly right, provided they were ſo employed as not to hurt their health or growth; but, when theſe ſuffer, ſociety, inſtead of being benefited, is a real loſer by their labour. There are few employments, except ſedentary ones, by which children can earn a livelihood; and, if they be ſet to theſe too ſoon, it ruins their conſtitutions. Thus, by gaining a few years from childhood, we generally loſe twice as many in the latter period of life, and even render the perſon leſs uſeful while he does live.

In order to be ſatisfied of the truth of this obſervation, one needs only look into the great manufacturing towns, where he will find a puny degenerate race of people, weak and ſickly all their lives, ſeldom exceeding the middle period of life; or, if they do, being unfit for buſineſs, they become

become a burden to ſociety. Thus, arts and manufactures, though they may increaſe the riches of a country, are by no means favourable to the health of its inhabitants. Good policy would therefore require, that ſuch people as labour during life, ſhould not be ſet too early to work. Every perſon converſant in the breed of horſes, or other working animals, knows, that, if they be ſet to hard labour too ſoon, they never will turn out to advantage. This is equally true with reſpect to the human ſpecies.

THERE are nevertheleſs various ways of employing young people, without hurting their health. The eaſier parts of gardening, huſbandry, or any buſineſs carried on without doors, are moſt proper. Theſe are employments which moſt young people are fond of, and ſome parts of them may always be adapted to their age, taſte, and ſtrength.

SUCH parents, however, as are under the neceſſity of employing their children within doors, ought to allow them ſufficient time for active diverſions. This would both encourage them to do more work, and prevent their conſtitutions from being hurt.

SOME imagine, that exerciſe within doors is ſufficient; but they are greatly miſtaken. One hour ſpent in running, or any other exerciſe without doors, is worth ten within. When children cannot go abroad, they may indeed be exerciſed at home. The beſt method of doing this is to make them run about in a long room, or dance. This

laſt kind of exerciſe, if not carried to exceſs, is of excellent ſervice to young people. It cheers the ſpirits, promotes perſpiration, ſtrengthens the limbs, &c. I knew an eminent phyſician who uſed to ſay, that he made his children dance inſtead of giving them phyſic. It were well if more people would follow his example.

THE COLD BATH may be conſidered as an aid to exerciſe. By it the body is braced and ſtrengthened, the circulation and ſecretions promoted, and, were it conducted with prudence, many diſeaſes, as the rickets, ſcrophula, &c. might be prevented. The ancients, who took every method to render children hardy and robuſt, were no ſtrangers to the uſe of the cold bath; and, if we may credit report, the practice of immerſing children daily in cold water muſt have been very common among our anceſtors.

THE greateſt objection to the uſe of the cold bath ariſes from the ſuperſtitious prejudices of nurſes. Theſe are often ſo ſtrong, that it is impoſſible to bring them to make a proper uſe of it. I have known ſome of them who would not dry a child's ſkin after bathing it, leſt it ſhould deſtroy the effect of the water. Others will even put clothes dipt in the water upon the child, and either put it to bed, or ſuffer it to go about in that condition. Some believe, that the whole virtue of the water depends upon its being dedicated to a particular ſaint. While others place their confidence in a certain number of dips, as three, ſeven, nine,

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or the like; and the world could not perſuade them, if theſe do not ſucceed, to try it a little longer. Thus, by the whims of nurſes, children loſe the benefit of the cold bath, and the hopes of the phyſician from that medicine are often fruſtrated.

We ought not, however, entirely to ſet aſide the uſe of the cold bath, becauſe ſome nurſes make a wrong uſe of it. Every child, when in health, ſhould at leaſt have its extremities daily waſhed in cold water. This is a partial uſe of the cold bath, and is better than none. In winter this may ſuffice; but, in the warm ſeaſon, if a child be relaxed, or ſeem to have a tendency to the rickets or ſcrophula, its whole body ought to be daily immerſed in cold water. Care however muſt be taken not to do this when the body is hot, or the ſtomach full. The child ſhould be dipt only once at a time, ſhould be taken out immediately, and have its ſkin well rubbed with a dry cloth.

The bad effects of unwholeſome air upon children.

Few things are more deſtructive to children than confined or unwholeſome air. This is one reaſon why ſo few of thoſe infants, who are put into hoſpitals, or pariſh workhouſes, live. Theſe places are generally crowded with old, ſickly, and infirm people; by which means the air is rendered ſo extremely pernicious, that it becomes a poiſon to infants.

Want of wholeſome air is likewiſe deſtructive to many of the children born in great towns.

There the poorer ſort of inhabitants live in low, dirty, confined houſes, to which the freſh air has no acceſs. Though grown people, who are hardy and robuſt, may live in ſuch ſituations, yet they generally prove fatal to their offspring, few of whom arrive at maturity, and thoſe who do are weak and deformed. As ſuch people are not able to carry their children abroad into the open air, we muſt lay our account with loſing the greater part of them. But the rich have not this excuſe. It is their buſineſs to ſee that their children be daily carried abroad, and that they be kept in the open air for a ſufficient time. This will always ſucceed better if the mother goes along with them. Servants are often negligent in theſe matters, and allow a child to ſit or lie on the damp ground, inſtead of leading or carrying it about. The mother ſurely needs air as well as her children; and how can ſhe be better employed than in attending them?

A VERY bad cuſtom prevails of making children ſleep in ſmall apartments, or crowding two or three beds into one chamber. Inſtead of this, the nurſery ought always to be the largeſt and beſt aired room in the houſe. When children are confined in ſmall apartments, the air not only becomes unwholeſome, but the heat relaxes their ſolids, renders them delicate, and diſpoſes them to colds and many other diſorders.

CHILDREN who are kept within doors all day, and ſleep all night in warm cloſe apartments,

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may, with great propriety, be compared to plants nurſed in a hot-houſe, inſtead of the open air. Though ſuch plants, by extraordinary care, may be kept alive for ſome time, they will never arrive at that degree of ſtrength, vigour, and magnitude, which they would have acquired in the open air, nor would they be able to bear it afterwards, ſhould they be expoſed to it.

CHILDREN brought up in the country, who have been accuſtomed to open air, ſhould not be too early ſent to great towns, where it is confined and unwholeſome. This is frequently done with a view to forward their education, but proves very hurtful to their health. All ſchools and ſeminaries of learning ought, if poſſible, to be ſo ſituated as to have freſh, dry, wholeſome air, and ſhould never be too much crowded.

WITHOUT entering into a detail of the particular advantages of wholeſome air to children, or of the bad conſequences which proceed from the want of it, I ſhall only obſerve, that of ſeveral thouſands of children which have been under my care, I do not remember one inſtance of a ſingle child who continued healthy in a cloſe confined ſituation; but have often known the moſt obſtinate diſeaſes cured by removing them from ſuch a ſituation to an open free air.

HIRED nurſes are guilty of many faults, which prove fatal to infants. It is therefore the duty of parents to watch over their conduct with the

The faults of nurſes.

greateſt care, and to be extremely cautious in the choice of them.

One of the moſt common faults of thoſe who nurſe for hire is to doſe children with ſtupifactives, or ſuch things as lull them aſleep. An indolent nurſe, who does not give a child ſufficient exerciſe in the open air to make it ſleep, and does not chuſe to be diſturbed by it in the night, will ſeldom fail to procure for it a doſe of laudanum, diacodium, ſaffron, or, what anſwers the ſame purpoſe, a dram of ſpirits, or other ſtrong liquors. Theſe, though they be certain poiſon to children, are every day adminiſtered by many who bear the character of very good nurſes.

A nurse who has not milk enough is apt to imagine that this defect may be ſupplied by giving the child wines, cordial waters, or other ſtrong liquors. This is an egregious miſtake. The only thing that has any chance to ſupply the place of the nurſe's milk, muſt be ſomewhat nearly of the ſame quality, as cow's milk, aſs's milk, or the like, with good bread. It never can be done by the help of ſtrong liquors. Theſe, inſtead of nouriſhing an infant, never fail to produce the contrary effect.

Children are often hurt by nurſes ſuffering them to cry long and vehemently. This ſtrains their tender bodies, and frequently occaſions ruptures, inflammations of the throat, lungs, &c. The nurſe who can hear an infant cry till it has almoſt ſpent itſelf, without endeavouring to pleaſe

it, muſt be cruel indeed, and is unworthy to be intruſted with the care of an human creature.

Nurses who deal much in medicine, are always to be ſuſpected. They truſt to it, and neglect their duty. I never knew a good nurſe who had her Godfrey's cordials, Daffy's elixirs, &c. at hand. Such generally imagine, that a doſe of medicine will make up for all defects in food, air, exerciſe, cleanlineſs, &c.

Allowing children to continue long wet, is another very pernicious cuſtom of indolent nurſes. This is not only diſagreeable, but it galls and frets the infant, and by relaxing the ſolids, occaſions ſcrophulas, rickets, and other diſeaſes. A dirty nurſe is always to be ſuſpected.

Nature often attempts to free the bodies of children from bad humours, by throwing them upon the ſkin: By this means fevers, and other diſeaſes are prevented. Nurſes are apt to miſtake ſuch critical eruptions for an itch, or ſome other infectious diſorder. Accordingly they take every method to drive them in. In this way many children loſe their lives; and no wonder, as nature is oppoſed in the very method ſhe takes to relieve them. It ought to be a rule, which every nurſe ſhould obſerve, never to ſtop any eruption without proper advice, or being well aſſured, that it is not of a critical nature. At any rate, it is never to be done without previous evacuations.

Loose ſtools is another method by which nature often prevents or carries off the diſeaſes of infants.

If

If theſe proceed too far, no doubt they ought to be checked; but this is never to be done without the greateſt caution. Nurſes, upon the firſt appearance of looſe ſtools, frequently fly to the uſe of aſtringents, or ſuch things as bind the belly. Hence inflammatory fevers, and other fatal diſeaſes, are occaſioned. A doſe of rhubarb, a gentle vomit, or ſome other evacuation, ſhould always precede the uſe of aſtringent medicines.

One of the greateſt faults of nurſes is concealing the diſeaſes of children from their parents. This they are extremely ready to do, eſpecially when the diſeaſe is the effect of their own negligence. Many inſtances might be given of perſons who have been rendered lame for life by a fall from their nurſe's arms, which ſhe, through fear, concealed till the misfortune was paſt cure. Every parent who intruſts a nurſe with the care of a child, ought to give her the ſtricteſt charge not to conceal the moſt trifling diſorder or misfortune that may befal it.

We can ſee no reaſon why a nurſe who conceals any misfortune which happens to a child under her care, till it loſes its life, ſhould not be puniſhed. A few examples of this would ſave the lives of many infants; but, as there is little reaſon to expect that it ever will be the caſe, we would earneſtly recommend it to all parents to look carefully after their children, and not to truſt ſo valuable a treaſure entirely in the hands of an hireling.

The

THE above is only a ſmall ſpecimen of the numerous faults which we know are daily committed by mercenary nurſes. It is hoped, however, that theſe examples will be ſufficient to rouſe the attention of parents, and to make them look more ſtrictly into the conduct of thoſe to whom they commit the care of their infant offſpring.

WERE it practicable to have all children nurſed and educated in the country, we ſhould loſe very few of them. One ſeldom ſees a country farmer without a numerous offſpring, moſt of whom arrive at maturity. Many things conſpire to this end. The children of theſe people are generally nurſed by their mothers, they eat plain wholeſome food, enjoy the benefit of freſh air, and have plenty of proper exerciſe; they have rural ſports and paſtimes ſuited to their age, and, as they grow up, find employments adapted to their ſtrength, and conducive to their health. In fine, we cannot help joining with the learned Mr. Locke, in recommending the example of the yeomen and ſubſtantial farmers, as a model to all in the management of their children.

No perſon ought to imagine that theſe things are unworthy of his attention. On the proper management of children depend not only their health and uſefulneſs in life, but likewiſe the ſafety and proſperity of the ſtate to which they belong. Effeminacy ever will prove the ruin of any ſtate, where it prevails; and, when its foundations are laid in infancy,

infancy, it can never afterwards be wholly eradicated.

We would therefore recommend to all parents, who love their offspring and wiſh well to their country, to avoid, in the management of their children, every thing that may have a tendency to make them weak or effeminate, and to take every method in their power to render their conſtitutions ſtrong, healthy, and hardy.

——————— By arts like theſe
Laconia nurs'd of old her hardy ſons;
And Rome's unconquer'd legions urg'd their way,
Unhurt thro' every toil in every clime *.

* Armſtrong.

CHAP. II.

OF LABOURERS, ARTIFICERS, &c.

THAT men are expoſed to particular diſeaſes from the occupations which they follow, is a fact well known; but how to remedy this evil is a matter of ſome difficulty. Moſt people are under a neceſſity of following the employments to which they have been bred, whether they be favourable to health or not. For this reaſon, inſtead of inveighing, in a general way, againſt thoſe occupations which are hurtful to health, we ſhall endeavour to point out the circumſtances in each of them from which the danger chiefly ariſes, and to propoſe the moſt rational methods of preventing it.

CHYMISTS, founders, glaſs-makers, &c. are often hurt by the unwholeſome air which they are obliged to breathe. This air is not only loaded with noxious exhalations, but is ſo parched, or rather burnt, as to be rendered unfit for expanding the lungs ſufficiently, and anſwering the other important purpoſes of reſpiration. Hence proceed aſthmas, coughs, and conſumptions of the lungs, ſo incident to perſons who follow theſe employments.

To prevent theſe ill conſequences, as far as poſſible, the places where ſuch occupations are carried

ried on, ought to be conſtructed with the utmoſt care for diſcharging the ſmoke and other exhalations, and admitting a free current of freſh air. Such artiſts ought never to continue too long at work; and when they give over, they ſhould ſuffer themſelves to cool gradually, and put on their clothes before they go into the open air. They ought never to drink large quantities of cold, weak, or watery liquors, while their bodies are hot, nor to indulge in raw fruits, ſallads, or any thing that is cold on the ſtomach.

MINERS, and all who work under ground, are likewiſe hurt by unwholeſome air. The air in deep mines not only loſes its proper ſpring and other qualities neceſſary for reſpiration, but is often loaded with ſuch noxious exhalations as to become a moſt deadly poiſon.

THERE is no other method of preventing this, but by promoting a free circulation of air in the mine.

MINERS are not only hurt by unwholeſome air, but likewiſe by the particles of metal which adhere to their ſkin, clothes, &c. Theſe are abſorbed, or taken up into the body, and occaſion palſies, vertigoes, and other nervous diſorders, which often prove fatal. Fallopius obſerves, that thoſe who work in mines of mercury ſeldom live above three or four years. Lead, and ſeveral other metals, are likewiſe very pernicious to the health.

Miners ought never to go to work faſting, nor to continue long under ground. Their food ought to be nouriſhing, and their liquor generous: Nothing more certainly hurts them than living too low. They ſhould, by all means, avoid coſtiveneſs. This may either be done by chewing a little rhubarb, or taking a ſufficient quantity of ſallad oil. Oil not only opens the body, but ſheaths and defends the inteſtines from the ill effects of the metals. All who work in mines or metals ought to waſh carefully, and to change their clothes as ſoon as they give over working. Nothing would tend more to preſerve the health of ſuch people than a ſtrict, and almoſt religious regard to cleanlineſs.

Plumbers, painters, gilders, makers of white lead, and many others who work in metals, are liable to the ſame diſeaſes as miners, and ought to obſerve the ſame directions for avoiding them.

Tallow-chandlers, boilers of oil, and all who work upon putrid animal ſubſtances, are likewiſe liable to ſuffer from the unwholeſome ſmells or effluvia of theſe bodies. They ought to pay the ſame regard to cleanlineſs as miners; and when they are troubled with nauſea, ſickneſs, or indigeſtion, we would adviſe them to take a vomit or a gentle purge. Such ſubſtances ought always to be manufactured as freſh as poſſible. When long kept, they not only become unwholeſome to thoſe who manufacture them, but likewiſe to people who live in the neighbourhood.

It would greatly exceed the limits of this part of our ſubject, to ſpecify the diſeaſes peculiar to perſons of every occupation; we ſhall therefore conſider mankind under the following general claſſes, viz. the *Laborious*, the *Sedentary*, and the *Studious*.

The laborious.

Though thoſe who follow laborious employments are in general the moſt healthy of mankind, yet the nature of their occupations, and the places where they are carried on, expoſe them more particularly to ſome diſeaſes. Huſbandmen, for example, are expoſed to all the viciſſitudes of the weather, which, in this country, are often very great and ſudden, and occaſion colds, coughs, quinſies, rheumatiſms, fevers, and other inflammatory diſorders, and are likewiſe forced to work hard, and often to carry burdens above their ſtrength, which, by overſtraining the veſſels, occaſion aſthmas, fevers, ruptures, &c.

Thoſe who labour without doors are often afflicted with intermitting fevers or agues, occaſioned by the frequent viciſſitudes of heat and cold, poor living, bad water, ſitting or lying on the damp ground, evening dews, night air, &c. to which theſe people are frequently expoſed.

Thoſe who bear heavy burdens, as porters, labourers, &c. are obliged to draw in the air with much

much greater force, and alſo to keep their lungs diſtended with more violence, than is neceſſary for common reſpiration: By this means the tender veſſels of the lungs are over-ſtretched, and often burſt, inſomuch that a ſpitting of blood or fever enſues. Hippocrates mentions an inſtance, to this purpoſe, of a man, who, upon a wager, carried an aſs. The man, he ſays, was immediately ſeized with a fever, a vomiting of blood, and a rupture.

Carrying heavy burdens is often the effect of mere lazineſs, which prompts people to do at once what ſhould be done at twice. It likewiſe proceeds frequently from bravado, or an emulation to outdo others. Hence it is that the ſtrongeſt men are moſt commonly hurt by heavy burdens, hard labour, or feats of activity. It is rare to find one who excels in this way, without a rupture, a ſpitting of blood, or ſome other diſeaſe, which he reaps as the fruit of his folly. One would imagine, that the daily inſtances we have of the fatal effects of carrying great weights, running, wreſtling, &c. would be ſufficient to prevent ſuch practices.

There are indeed ſome employments which neceſſarily require a great exertion of ſtrength, as blackſmiths, carpenters, &c. None ought to follow theſe but men of a ſtrong body; and they ſhould never exert their ſtrength to the utmoſt, nor work too long. When the muſcles are violently ſtrained, frequent reſt is neceſſary, in order that they may recover their tone; without this, the

ſtrength and conſtitution will ſoon be worn out, and a premature old age brought on.

The eriſipelas, or St. Anthony's fire, is likewiſe very incident to the laborious. It is occaſioned by whatever gives a ſudden check to the perſpiration, as drinking cold liquor when the body is warm, wet feet, keeping on wet clothes, ſitting or lying on the damp ground, &c. It is impoſſible for thoſe who labour without doors always to guard againſt theſe inconveniencies; but it is known from experience, that their ill conſequences might often be prevented by proper care.

The laborious are often afflicted with the iliac paſſion, the colic, and other complaints of the bowels. Theſe are generally occaſioned by the cauſes mentioned above; but they may likewiſe proceed from flatulent and indigeſtible food. Labourers eat unfermented bread made of peas, beans, rye, and other windy ingredients. They alſo devour great quantities of unripe fruits, baked, ſtewed, or raw, with various kinds of roots and herbs, upon which they drink ſour milk, ſtale ſmall beer, &c. Such a compoſition cannot fail to fill the bowels with wind, and occaſion diſeaſes of thoſe parts.

Inflammations, whitloes, and other diſeaſes of the extremities, are very common amongſt thoſe who labour without doors. Theſe diſeaſes are often attributed to venom, or ſome kind of poiſon; but they generally proceed either from ſudden heat after cold, or the contrary. When labourers, milk-maids, &c.

come from the field, cold or wet, they run to the fire, and often plunge their hands in warm water, by which means the blood and other humours in thoſe parts are ſuddenly expanded, and, the veſſels not yielding ſo quickly, a ſtrangulation happens, and an inflammation or mortification enſues.

When labourers come home cold, they ought to keep at a diſtance from the fire for ſome time, to waſh their hands in cold water, and to rub them well with a dry cloth. It ſometimes happens, that people are ſo benumbed with cold, as to be quite deprived of the uſe of their limbs. In this caſe, the only remedy is to rub the parts affected with ſnow, or, where it cannot be had, with cold water. If they be held near the fire, or plunged into warm water, a mortification will generally enſue.

Labourers in the hot ſeaſon are apt to lie down and ſleep in the ſun. This practice is ſo dangerous, that they often wake in a burning fever. Theſe burning fevers, which prove ſo fatal about the end of ſummer and beginning of autumn, are often occaſioned by this means. When labourers leave off work, which they ought always to do during the heat of the day, they ſhould go home, or, at leaſt, get under ſome cover, where they may repoſe themſelves in ſafety.

Labourers frequently follow their employments in the fields from morning till night, without eating any thing. This cannot fail to hurt their health. However homely their fare be, they

ought to have it at regular times; and the harder they work, the more frequently they ſhould eat. If the humours be not frequently repleniſhed with freſh nouriſhment, they ſoon become putrid, and produce fevers of the very worſt kind.

LABOURERS are extremely careleſs with reſpect to what they eat or drink, and often, through mere indolence, uſe unwholeſome food, when they might, for the ſame expence, have that which is wholeſome. In many parts of Britain, the peaſants are too careleſs even to take the trouble of dreſſing their own victuals. Such people would live upon one meal a-day in indolence, rather than labour, though it were to procure them the greateſt affluence.

FEVERS of a very bad kind are often occaſioned among labourers by *poor living*. When the body is not ſufficiently nouriſhed, the humours become bad, and the ſolids weak; from whence the moſt fatal conſequences enſue. *Poor living* is likewiſe productive of many of thoſe cutaneous diſeaſes ſo frequent among labourers. It is remarkable that cattle, when pinched in their food, are generally affected with diſeaſes of the ſkin, which ſeldom fail to diſappear when they are put upon a good paſture. This ſhews how much a good ſtate of the humours depends upon a ſufficient quantity of proper nouriſhment.

POVERTY not only occaſions, but aggravates, many of the diſeaſes of the laborious. Few of them have much foreſight; and, if they had, it is

is ſeldom in their power to ſave any thing. They are glad to make a ſhift to live from day to day; and, when any diſeaſe renders them unable to work, their families are ready to ſtarve. Here the god-like virtue of charity ought always to be exerted. To relieve the induſtrious poor in diſtreſs, is ſurely the moſt exalted act of religion and humanity. They alone, who are witneſſes of thoſe ſcenes of calamity, can form a notion of what numbers periſh in diſeaſes for want of proper aſſiſtance, and even for want of the neceſſaries of life.

LABOURERS are often hurt by a fooliſh emulation, which prompts them to vie with one another, till they overheat themſelves to ſuch a degree as to occaſion a fever, or even to drop down dead. As this is the effect of vanity, it ought always to be checked by thoſe who have the ſuperintendence of them. Such as wantonly throw away their lives in this manner, deſerve to be looked upon in no better light than ſelf-murderers. It is pity that poor widows and fatherleſs children ſhould ſuffer by ſuch ridiculous conduct: Could we ſpeak to the paſſions of men, we would bid them think of their wives and children, and then conſider of how great importance their own lives are.

THE office of a *ſoldier*, in time of war, may be ranked amongſt the laborious employments. Soldiers ſuffer many hardſhips from the inclemency of ſeaſons, long marches, bad proviſions, hunger, &c. Theſe occaſion fevers, fluxes,

rheumatiſms, and other fatal diſeaſes, which generally do greater execution than the ſword, eſpecially when campaigns are continued too late in the year. One week of cold rainy weather will kill more men, than many months, when it is dry and warm.

THOSE who have the command of armies, ſhould take care that their ſoldiers be well clothed and well fed. They ought alſo to finiſh their campaigns in due ſeaſon, and to provide their men with dry and well-aired winter-quarters. Theſe rules, taking care, at the ſame time, to keep the ſick at a proper diſtance from thoſe in health, would tend greatly to preſerve the lives of the ſoldiery *.

SAILORS

* It muſt indeed be acknowledged, that ſoldiers ſuffer no leſs from indolence and intemperance in time of peace, than from hardſhips in time of war. If men are idle, they will be vicious. It would therefore be of great importance, could a ſcheme be formed for rendering the military, in times of peace, both more healthy and more uſeful. Theſe deſirable objects might, in our opinion, be obtained, by employing them for ſome time every day, and advancing their pay accordingly. By this means, idleneſs, the mother of vice, might be prevented, the price of labour lowered, public works, as harbours, canals, turnpike-roads, &c. might be made without hurting manufactures; and ſoldiers might be enabled to marry, and bring up children. A ſcheme of this kind might eaſily be conducted, ſo as not to depreſs the martial ſpirit, provided the men were only to work five or ſix hours every day, and always to work without doors: no ſoldier ſhould be ſuffered to work too long, or to follow any ſedentary employment. Sedentary employments render men

SAILORS may alſo be numbered amongſt the laborious. They undergo great hardſhips from change of climate, the violence of weather, hard labour, bad proviſions, &c. Sailors are of ſo great importance both to the trade and ſafety of this kingdom, that too much pains can never be beſtowed in pointing out the means of preſerving their lives.

ONE great ſource of the diſeaſes of ſea-faring people is exceſs. When they get on ſhore, after having been long at ſea, without regard to the climate, or their own conſtitutions, they plunge headlong into all manner of riot, and often perſiſt till a fever puts an end to their lives. Thus intemperance, and not the climate, is often the cauſe why ſo many of our brave ſailors die on foreign coaſts. We would not have ſea-faring people live too low; but they will find moderation the beſt defence againſt fevers, and many other maladies.

SAILORS, when on duty, cannot avoid ſometimes getting wet. When this happens, they ſhould change their clothes as ſoon as they are relieved, and take every proper method to reſtore perſpiration. They ſhould not, in this caſe, have recourſe to ſpirits, or other ſtrong liquors,

men weak and effeminate, and quite unfit for the hardſhips of war; whereas working for a few hours every day without doors would inure them to the weather, brace their nerves, and increaſe their ſtrength and courage.

but ſhould rather drink ſuch as are weak and diluting, of a proper warmth, and go immediately to bed, where a ſound ſleep and a gentle ſweat would ſet all to rights.

But the health of ſailors ſuffers moſt from unwholeſome food. The conſtant uſe of ſalted proviſions vitiates their humours, and occaſions the ſcurvy, and other obſtinate maladies. It is no eaſy matter to prevent this diſeaſe in long voyages; yet we cannot help thinking, that much might be done towards effecting ſo deſirable an end, were due pains beſtowed for that purpoſe. For example, various roots, greens, and fruits, might be kept a long time at ſea, as onions, potatoes, cabbages, lemons, oranges, tamarinds, apples, &c. When fruits cannot be kept, the juices of them, either freſh or fermented, may. With theſe all the drink, and even the food of the ſhip's company, ought to be acidulated inlong voyages.

Stale bread and beer likewiſe contribute to vitiate the humours. Meal will keep for a long time on board, of which freſh bread might frequently be made. Malt too might be kept, and infuſed with boiling water at any time. This liquor, when drank even in form of wort, is very wholeſome, and is found to be an antidote againſt the ſcurvy. Small wines and cyder might likewiſe be plentifully laid in; and ſhould they turn ſour, they would ſtill be uſeful as vinegar. Vinegar is a very great antidote againſt diſeaſes,

and

and ſhould be uſed by all travellers, eſpecially at ſea.

Such animals as can be kept alive, ought likewiſe to be carried on board, as hens, ducks, pigs, &c. Freſh broths made of portable ſoup, and puddings made of peas, or other vegetables, ought to be uſed plentifully. Many other things will readily occur to people converſant in theſe matters, which would tend to preſerve the health of that brave and uſeful ſet of men.

We have reaſon to believe, if due attention were paid to the diet, air, clothing, &c. of ſea-faring people, that they would be the moſt healthy ſet of men in the world; but when theſe are neglected, the very reverſe will happen.

The beſt *medical antidote* that we can recommend to ſailors or ſoldiers on foreign coaſts, is the Peruvian bark. This will often prevent fevers, and other fatal diſeaſes. About a drachm of it may be chewed every day; or if this ſhould prove diſagreeable, an ounce of bark, with half an ounce of orange-peel, and two drams of ſnake-root coarſely powdered, may be infuſed for two or three days in an Engliſh quart of brandy, and half a wine-glaſs of it taken twice or thrice a-day, when the ſtomach is empty. This has been found to be an excellent antidote againſt fluxes, putrid, intermitting, and other fevers, in unhealthy climates. It is not material in what form this medicine be taken. It may either be infuſed in

in water, wine, or ſpirits, as recommended above, or made into an electuary with ſyrup of lemons, oranges, or the like.

The ſedentary.

THOUGH nothing can be more contrary to the nature of man than a ſedentary life, yet this claſs comprehends the far greater part of the ſpecies. Almoſt the whole female world, and in manufacturing countries, the major part of the males, may be reckoned ſedentary *.

AGRICULTURE, the firſt and moſt healthful of all employments, is now followed by few who are able to carry on any other buſineſs. But thoſe who imagine that the culture of the earth is not ſufficient to employ all its inhabitants, are greatly miſtaken. An ancient Roman, we are told, could maintain his family from the produce of one acre of ground. So might a modern Briton, if he would be contented to live like a Roman. This ſhews what an immenſe increaſe of inhabitants Britain might admit of, and all of them live by the culture of the ground.

* The appellation of ſedentary has generally been given only to the ſtudious; we can ſee no reaſon, however, for reſtricting it to them alone. Many artificers may, with as much propriety, be denominated ſedentary as the ſtudious, with this particular diſadvantage, that they are often obliged to ſit in very aukward poſtures, which the ſtudious need not do, unleſs they pleaſe.

AGRI-

AGRICULTURE is the great ſource of domeſtic riches. Where it is neglected, whatever wealth may be imported from abroad, poverty and miſery will abound at home. Such is, and ever will be, the fluctuating ſtate of trade and manufactures, that thouſands of people may be in full employment to-day, and in beggary to-morrow. This can never happen to thoſe who cultivate the ground. They can eat the fruit of their labour, and can always by induſtry obtain, at leaſt, the neceſſaries of life.

THOUGH ſedentary employments are neceſſary, yet there ſeems to be no reaſon why any perſon ſhould be confined for life to theſe alone. Were ſuch employments intermixed with the more active and laborious, they would never do hurt. It is conſtant confinement that ruins the health. A man ſhall not be hurt by ſitting four or five hours a-day; but if he is obliged to ſit ten or twelve, will ſoon contract diſeaſes.

BUT it is not want of exerciſe alone which hurts ſedentary people; they often ſuffer from the confined air which they breathe. It is very common to ſee ten or a dozen taylors, or ſtay-makers, for example, crouded into one ſmall apartment, where there is hardly room for one ſingle perſon to breathe freely. In this ſituation they generally continue for many hours at a time, often with the addition of ſundry candles, which tend likewiſe to waſte the air, and render it leſs fit for reſpiration. Air that is breathed repeatedly, loſes its ſpring, and becomes

becomes unfit for expanding the lungs. This is one cauſe of the phthiſical coughs, and other complaints of the breaſt, ſo incident to ſedentary artificers.

EVEN the perſpiration from a great number of perſons pent up together, renders the air unwholeſome. The danger from this quarter will be greatly increaſed, if any one of them happens to have bad lungs, or to be otherwiſe diſeaſed. Thoſe who ſit near him, being forced to breathe the ſame air, can hardly fail to be infected. It would be a rare thing, however, to find a dozen of ſedentary people all ſound. The danger of crouding them together muſt therefore be evident to every one.

MANY of thoſe who follow ſedentary employments are conſtantly in a bending poſture, as ſhoemakers, taylors, cutlers, &c. Such a ſituation is extremely hurtful. A bending poſture obſtructs all the vital motions, and of courſe muſt deſtroy the health. Accordingly we find ſuch artificers generally complaining of indigeſtions, flatulencies, headachs, pains of the breaſt, &c.

THE aliment in ſedentary people, inſtead of being puſhed forwards by an erect poſture, the action of the muſcles, &c. is in a manner confined in the bowels. Hence indigeſtions, coſtiveneſs, wind, and other hypochondriacal ſymptoms, the conſtant companions of the ſedentary. Indeed none of the excretions can be duly performed where exerciſe is wanting, and when the matter,

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which ought to be diſcharged in this way, is retained too long in the body, it muſt have bad effects, as it is again taken up into the maſs of humours.

A bending poſture is likewiſe hurtful to the lungs. When this organ is compreſſed, the air cannot have free acceſs into all its parts, ſo as to expand them properly. Hence tubercles, adheſions, &c. are formed, which often end in conſumptions. Beſides, the proper action of the lungs being abſolutely neceſſary for making good blood, when that organ fails, the humours ſoon become univerſally depraved, and the whole conſtitution goes to wreck.

SEDENTARY artificers are not only hurt by preſſure on the bowels, but alſo on the inferior extremities, which obſtructs the circulation in theſe parts, and renders them weak and feeble. Thus taylors, ſhoemakers, &c. frequently loſe the uſe of their legs altogether; beſides, the blood and humours are, by ſtagnation, vitiated, and the perſpiration is obſtructed: from whence proceed the ſcab, ulcerous ſores, foul blotches, and other cutaneous diſeaſes, ſo common among ſedentary artificers.

A bad figure of body is a very common conſequence of cloſe application to ſedentary employments. The ſpine, for example, by being continually bent, puts on a crooked ſhape, and generally remains ſo ever after. But a bad figure

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of body has already been obſerved to be hurtful to health, as the vital functions, &c. are thereby impeded.

A ſedentary life ſeldom fails to occaſion an univerſal relaxation of the ſolids. This is the great ſource from whence moſt of the diſeaſes of ſedentary people flow. The ſcrophula, conſumption, hyſterics, with all the numerous train of nervous diſeaſes, which now abound, were very little known in this country before ſedentary artificers became ſo numerous: and they are very little known ſtill among ſuch of our people as follow active employments without doors, though in the great manufacturing towns at leaſt two-thirds of the inhabitants are afflicted with them.

It is very difficult to remedy thoſe evils, becauſe many who have been accuſtomed to a ſedentary life, like rickety children, loſe all inclination for exerciſe; we ſhall, however, throw out a few hints with reſpect to the moſt likely means of preſerving the health of this uſeful ſet of people, which ſome of them, we hope, will be wiſe enough to obſerve.

It has been already obſerved, that ſedentary artificers are often hurt by their bending poſture. They ought therefore to ſtand or ſit as erect as the nature of their employments will permit. They ſhould likewiſe change their poſture frequently, and ſhould never ſit too long at a time; but leave off work and walk, ride, run, or do any thing that will promote the vital motions.

SEDEN-

SEDENTARY artificers are generally allowed too little time for exercise; yet, short as it is, they seldom employ it properly. A journeyman taylor or weaver, for example, instead of walking abroad for exercise and fresh air, at his hours of leisure, chuses often to spend them in a public house, or in playing at some sedentary game, by which he generally loses both his time and his money.

THE aukward postures in which many sedentary artificers work, seem rather to be the effect of custom than necessity. For example, a table might surely be contrived for ten or a dozen taylors to sit round, with liberty for their legs either to hang down, or rest upon a foot-board, as they should chuse. A place might likewise be cut out for each person, in such a manner that he might sit as conveniently for working as in the present mode of sitting cross-legged.

WE would recommend to all sedentary artificers the most religious regard to cleanliness. Both their situation and occupations render this highly necessary. Nothing would contribute more to preserve sedentary artificers in health, than a strict attention to it; and such of them as neglect it, not only run the hazard of losing their health, but of becoming a nuisance to society.

SEDENTARY people ought to avoid food that is windy, or hard of digestion, and should pay the strictest regard to sobriety. A person who works hard without

without doors will ſoon throw off a debauch; but one who ſits has by no means an equal chance. Hence it often happens, that ſedentary people are ſeized with fevers after hard drinking or a feaſt. When ſuch perſons feel their ſpirits low, inſtead of running to the tavern for relief, they ſhould ride, or walk in the fields. This would remove the complaint more effectually than ſtrong liquor, and would never hurt the conſtitution.

INSTEAD of multiplying particular rules for preſerving the health of the ſedentary, we ſhall recommend to them the following general plan, viz. That every perſon who follows a ſedentary employment ſhould cultivate a piece of ground with his own hands. This he might dig, plant, ſow, and weed at leiſure-hours, ſo as to make it both an exerciſe and amuſement, while it produced many of the neceſſaries of life. After working an hour in a garden, a man will return with more keenneſs to his employment within doors, than if he had been all the while idle.

LABOURING the ground is every way conducive to health. It not only gives exerciſe to every part of the body, but the very ſmell of the earth and freſh herbs revive and chear the ſpirits, whilſt the perpetual proſpect of ſomething coming to maturity, delights and entertains the mind. We are ſo made as to be always pleaſed with ſomewhat in proſpect, however diſtant or however trivial. Hence the happineſs that moſt

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men feel in planting, ſowing, building, &c. Theſe ſeem to have been the chief employments of the early ages: and, when kings and conquerors cultivated the ground, there is reaſon to believe, that they knew as well wherein true happineſs conſiſted as we do.

It may ſeem romantic to recommend gardening to manufacturers in great towns; but obſervation proves, that the plan is very practicable. In the town of Sheffield, in Yorkſhire, where the great iron manufacture is carried on, there is hardly a journeyman cutler who does not poſſeſs a piece of ground, which he cultivates as a garden. This practice has many ſalutary effects. It not only induces theſe people to take exerciſe without doors, but alſo to eat many gree roots, &c. of their own growth, which they would never think of purchaſing. There can be no reaſon why manufacturers in any other town in Great Britain ſhould not follow the ſame plan.

Mechanics are too much inclined to croud into great towns. This ſituation may have ſome advantages; but it has likewiſe its diſadvantages. All mechanics who live in the country have it in their power to poſſeſs a piece of ground; which indeed moſt of them do. This not only gives them exerciſe, but enables them to live more comfortably. So far at leaſt as our obſervation reaches, mechanics who live in the country are far more happy than thoſe in great towns.

They enjoy better health, live in greater affluence, and ſeldom fail to rear a healthy and numerous offſpring.

In a word, exerciſe without doors, in one ſhape or another, is abſolutely neceſſary to health. Thoſe who neglect it, though they may for a while drag out life, can hardly be ſaid to enjoy it. Their humours are generally vitiated, their ſolids relaxed, and their ſpirits depreſſed.

Of the ſtudious.

Intense thinking is ſo deſtructive to health, that few inſtances can be produced of ſtudious perſons who are ſtrong and healthy, or live to an extreme old age. Hard ſtudy always implies a ſedentary life; and, when intenſe thinking is joined to the want of exerciſe, the conſequences muſt be bad. We have frequently known even a few months of cloſe application to ſtudy ruin an excellent conſtitution, by inducing a train of nervous complaints, which could never be removed. Man is evidently not formed for continual thought more than for perpetual action, and would be as ſoon worn out by the one as by the other.

So great is the power of the mind over the body, that, by its influence, the whole vital motions may be accelerated or retarded, to almoſt any degree. Thus cheerfulneſs and mirth quicken the circulation, and promote all the ſecretions; whereas ſadneſs and profound thought never fail to retard them. Hence it would appear, that

even

even a degree of thoughtleſſneſs is neceſſary to health. Indeed, the perpetual thinker ſeldom enjoys either health or ſpirits; while the perſon, who can hardly be ſaid to think at all, generally enjoys both.

Perpetual thinkers, as they are called, ſeldom think long. In a few years they generally become quite ſtupid, and exhibit a melancholy proof how readily the greateſt bleſſings may be abuſed. Thinking, like every thing elſe, when carried to extreme, becomes a vice: nor can any thing afford a greater proof of wiſdom, than for a man frequently and ſeaſonably to unbend his mind. This may generally be done by mixing in cheerful company, active diverſions, or the like.

Instead of attempting to inveſtigate the nature of that connection which ſubſiſts between the mind and body, or to enquire into the manner in which they mutually affect each other, we ſhall only mention thoſe diſeaſes to which the learned are more peculiarly liable, and endeavour to point out the means of avoiding them.

Studious perſons are very ſubject to the gout. This painful diſeaſe is generally occaſioned by indigeſtion, and an obſtructed perſpiration. It is impoſſible that the man who ſits from morning till night ſhould either digeſt his food, or have any of the ſecretions in due quantity. But when that matter, which ſhould be thrown off by the ſkin, is retained in the body, and the humours are not duly prepared, diſeaſes muſt enſue.

THE ſtudious are often afflicted with the ſtone and gravel. Exerciſe greatly promotes both the ſecretion and diſcharge of urine; conſequently a ſedentary life muſt have the contrary effect. Any one may be ſatisfied of this by obſerving, that he paſſes much more urine by day than in the night, and alſo when he walks or rides, than when he ſits.

THE circulation in the liver being ſlow, obſtructions in that organ can hardly fail to be the conſequence of inactivity. Hence ſedentary people are frequently afflicted with ſchirrous livers. But the proper ſecretion and diſcharge of the bile is ſo neceſſary a part of the animal œconomy, that where theſe are not duly performed, the health muſt ſoon be impaired. Jaundice, indigeſtion, loſs of appetite, and a waſting of the whole body, ſeldom fail to be the conſequences of a vitiated ſtate, or obſtructions of the bile.

FEW diſeaſes prove more fatal to the ſtudious than conſumptions of the lungs. It has already been obſerved, that this organ cannot be duly expanded in thoſe who do not take proper exerciſe, and where that is the caſe, obſtructions, adheſions, &c. will enſue. Not only want of exerciſe, but the poſture in which ſtudious perſons generally ſit, is very hurtful to the lungs. Thoſe who read or write much are ready to contract a habit of bending forwards, and often preſs with their breaſt upon a table or bench. This poſture cannot fail to hurt the lungs.

No perſon can enjoy health who does not properly digeſt his food. But intenſe thinking and inactivity never fail to weaken the powers of digeſtion. Hence the humours become crude and vitiated, the ſolids weak and relaxed, and the whole conſtitution goes to ruin.

Long and intenſe thinking often occaſions grievous headachs, which bring on apoplexies, vertigos, palſies, and other fatal diſorders. The beſt way to prevent theſe is, never to ſtudy too long at one time, and to keep the belly regular, either by proper food, or taking frequently a little of ſome opening medicine.

Those who read or write much are often afflicted with ſore eyes. Studying by candle light is peculiarly hurtful to the ſight. This ought to be practiſed as ſeldom as poſſible. When it is unavoidable, the eyes ſhould be ſhaded, and the head ſhould not be held too low. When the eyes feel ſtiff and painful, they ſhould be bathed every night and morning in cold water, to which a little brandy may be added.

It has already been obſerved, that the excretions are very defective in the ſtudious. The dropſy is often occaſioned by the retention of thoſe humours which ought to be carried off in this way. Any perſon may obſerve, that ſitting makes his legs ſwell, and that this goes off by exerciſe; which clearly points out the method of prevention.

Fevers, eſpecially of the nervous kind, are often the effect of ſtudy. Nothing is ſo deſtruc-

tive to the nerves as intenſe thought. It in a manner unhinges the whole human frame, and not only hurts the vital motions, but diſorders the mind itſelf. Hence a delirium, melancholy, and even madneſs, are often the effect of cloſe application to ſtudy. In fine, there is no diſeaſe which can proceed either from a bad ſtate of the humours, a defect of the uſual ſecretions, or a debility of the nervous ſyſtem, which may not be induced by intenſe thinking.

THE moſt afflicting of all the diſeaſes which attack the ſtudious is, the hypochondriac. This diſeaſe ſeldom fails to be the companion of deep thought. It may rather be called a complication of maladies, than a ſingle one. To what a wretched condition are the beſt of men often reduced by it? Their ſtrength and appetite fail; a perpetual gloom hangs over their minds; they live in the conſtant dread of death, and are continually in ſearch of relief from medicine, where, alas! it is not to be found. Thoſe who labour under this diſorder, though they be often made the ſubject of ridicule, juſtly claim our higheſt ſympathy and compaſſion.

HARDLY any thing can be more prepoſterous than for a perſon to make ſtudy his ſole buſineſs. A mere ſtudent is ſeldom an uſeful member of ſociety. He often neglects the moſt important duties of life, in order to purſue ſtudies of a very trifling nature. Indeed it rarely happens, that any uſeful invention is the effect of mere ſtudy.

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The farther men dive into profound reſearches, they generally deviate the more from common ſenſe, and too often loſe ſight of it altogether. Profound ſpeculations, inſtead of making men wiſer or better, generally render them abſolute ſceptics, and overwhelm them with doubts and uncertainty. All that is neceſſary for man to know, in order to be happy, is eaſily obtained, and the reſt, like the forbidden tree, ſerves only to increaſe his miſery.

STUDIOUS perſons, in order to relieve their minds, muſt not only diſcontinue to read and write, but engage in ſome employment or diverſion, that will ſo far occupy the thought as to make them forget the buſineſs of the cloſet. A ſolitary ride or walk are ſo far from relaxing the mind, that they rather encourage thought. Nothing can divert the mind, when it gets into a train of ſerious thinking, but attention to ſubjects of a more trivial nature. Theſe prove a kind of play to the mind, and conquently relieve it.

LEARNED men often contract a contempt for what they call trifling company. They are aſhamed to be ſeen with any but philoſophers. This however is no proof of their being philoſophers themſelves. No man deſerves that name who is aſhamed to unbend his mind by aſſociating with the cheerful and gay. Even the ſociety of children will relieve the mind, and expel the gloom which application to ſtudy is too apt to occaſion.

As ſtudious people are neceſſarily much within doors, they ſhould make choice of a large and well-aired place for ſtudy. This would not only prevent the bad effects which attend confined air, but would cheer the ſpirits, and have a moſt happy influence both on the body and mind. It is ſaid of Euripides the Tragedian, that he uſed to retire to a dark cave to compoſe his tragedies, and of Demoſthenes the Grecian orator, that he choſe a place for ſtudy where nothing could either be heard or ſeen. With all deference to ſuch venerable names, we cannot help condemning their taſte. A man may ſurely think to as good purpoſe in an elegant apartment as in a cave; and may have as happy ideas where the all-cheering rays of the ſun render the air wholeſome, as in places where they never reach.

Those who read or write much ſhould be very attentive to their poſture. They ought to ſit and ſtand by turns, always keeping as nearly in an erect poſture as poſſible. Thoſe who dictate may do it walking. It has an excellent effect frequently to read or ſpeak aloud. This not only exerciſes the lungs, but almoſt the whole body. Hence ſtudious people are greatly benefited by delivering diſcourſes in public. Such indeed ſometimes hurt themſelves by over-acting their part; but this is their own fault. The man who dies a martyr to mere vociferation merits not our ſympathy.

The morning has by all medical writers been reckoned the beſt time for ſtudy. It is ſo. But

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it is alſo the moſt proper ſeaſon for exerciſe, while the ſtomach is empty, and the ſpirits refreſhed with ſleep. Studious people ſhould therefore ſometimes ſpend the morning in walking, riding, or ſome manly diverſions without doors. This would make them return to ſtudy with greater alacrity, and would be of more ſervice than twice the time after their ſpirits are worn out with fatigue. It is not ſufficient to take diverſion only when we can think no longer. Every ſtudious perſon ſhould make it a part of his buſineſs, and ſhould let nothing interrupt his hours of recreation more than thoſe of ſtudy.

Music has a very happy effect in relieving the mind when fatigued with ſtudy. It would be well if every ſtudious perſon were ſo far acquainted with that ſcience as to amuſe himſelf after ſevere thought, by playing ſuch airs as have a tendency to raiſe the ſpirits, and inſpire cheerfulneſs and good-humour.

It is the reproach of learning, that ſo many of her votaries, to relieve the mind after ſtudy, betake themſelves to the uſe of ſtrong liquors. This indeed is a remedy; but it is a deſperate one, and always proves deſtructive. Would ſuch perſons, when their ſpirits are low, get on horſeback, and gallop ten or a dozen miles, they would find it a more effectual remedy than any cordial medicine in the apothecary's ſhop, or all the ſtrong liquors in the world.

It is much to be regretted that learned men, while in health, pay ſo little regard to theſe things! Nothing is more common than to ſee a miſerable object over-run with nervous diſeaſes, bathing, walking, riding, and, in a word, doing every thing for health after it is gone; yet, if any one had recommended theſe things to him by way of prevention, the advice would, in all probability, have been treated with contempt, or, at leaſt, with neglect. Such is the weakneſs and folly of mankind, and ſuch the want of foreſight, even in thoſe who ought to be wiſer than others.

With regard to the diet of the ſtudious, we ſee no reaſon why they ſhould abſtain from any kind of food that is wholeſome, provided they uſe it in moderation. They ought, however, to be ſparing in the uſe of every thing that is ſour, windy, rancid, or hard of digeſtion. Their ſuppers ſhould always be light, and taken ſoon in the evening. Their drink may be water, fine malt liquor, not too ſtrong, good cyder, wine and water, or, if troubled with acidities, water mixed with a little brandy.

We ſhall only obſerve, with regard to thoſe kinds of exerciſe which are moſt proper for the ſtudious, that they ſhould not be too violent, nor ever carried to the degree of exceſſive fatigue. They ought likewiſe to be frequently varied, ſo as to give action to all the different parts of the body; and ſhould, as often as poſſible, be taken in the open air. In general, riding on horſeback,

walking,

walking, working in a garden, or playing at ſome active diverſions are the beſt.

We would likewiſe recommend the uſe of the cold bath to the ſtudious. It will, in ſome meaſure, ſupply the place of exerciſe, and ſhould not be neglected by perſons of a relaxed habit, eſpecially in the warm ſeaſon.

The ſtudious ought neither to take exerciſe, nor to ſtudy immediately after a full meal.

CHAP. III.

OF ALIMENT.

UNWHOLESOME food, and irregularities in diet, occaſion many diſeaſes. There is no doubt but the whole conſtitution of body may be changed by diet. The fluids may be thereby attenuated or condenſed, rendered mild or acrimonious, coagulated or diluted, to almoſt any degree. Nor are its effects upon the ſolids leſs conſiderable. They may be braced or relaxed, have their ſenſibility, motions, &c. greatly increaſed or diminiſhed, by different kinds of aliment. A very ſmall attention to theſe things will be ſufficient to ſhew, how much the preſervation of health depends upon a proper diet.

Nor is an attention to diet neceſſary for the preſervation of health only: It is likewiſe of importance in the cure of diſeaſes. Every intention, in the cure of many diſeaſes, may be anſwered by diet alone. Its effects, indeed, are not always ſo quick as thoſe of medicine; but they are generally more laſting: Beſides, it is neither ſo diſagreeable to the patient, nor ſo dangerous as medicine, and is always more eaſily obtained.

OUR intention here is not to enquire minutely into the nature and properties of the various kinds of

of aliment in uſe among mankind; nor to ſhew their effects upon the different conſtitutions of the human body; but to mark ſome of the moſt pernicious errors which people are apt to fall into, with reſpect both to the quantity and qualities of their food, and to point out their influence upon health.

It is not indeed an eaſy matter to aſcertain the exact quantity of food proper for every age, ſex, and conſtitution: But a ſcrupulous nicety here is by no means neceſſary. The beſt rule is to avoid all extremes. Mankind were never intended to weigh and meaſure their food. Nature teaches every creature when it has enough; and the calls of thirſt and hunger are ſufficient to inform them when more is neceſſary.

Though *moderation* be the chief rule with regard to the quantity, yet the quality of food merits farther conſideration. There are many ways by which proviſions may be rendered unwholeſome. Bad ſeaſons may either prevent the ripening of grain, or damage it afterwards. Theſe, indeed, are acts of Providence, and we muſt ſubmit to them; but ſurely no puniſhment can be too ſevere for thoſe who ſuffer proviſions to ſpoil by hoarding them, on purpoſe to raiſe the price. The ſoundeſt grain, if kept too long, becomes unfit for uſe *.

Animal

* The poor, indeed, are generally the firſt who ſuffer by unſound proviſions; but the lives of the labouring poor are of

ANIMAL, as well as vegetable food, may be rendered unwholeſome, by being kept too long. All animal ſubſtances have a conſtant tendency to putrefaction; and, when that has proceeded too far, they not only become offenſive to the ſenſes, but hurtful to health. Diſeaſed animals, and ſuch as die of themſelves, ought never to be eaten. It is a common practice, however, in ſome graſing countries, for ſervants and poor people to eat ſuch animals as die of any diſeaſe, or are killed by accident. Poverty, indeed, may oblige people to do this; but they had better eat a ſmaller quantity of what is ſound and wholeſome: It would both afford a better nouriſhment, and be attended with leſs danger.

THE injunctions given to the Jews, not to eat any creature which died of itſelf, ſeem to have a ſtrict regard to health; and ought to be obſerved by Chriſtians as well as Jews. Animals never die of themſelves without ſome previous diſeaſe; but how a diſeaſed animal ſhould be wholeſome food, is inconceivable: Even thoſe which die by accident muſt be hurtful, as their blood is mixed with the fleſh, and ſoon turns putrid.

ANIMALS which feed groſsly, as tame ducks, ſwine, *&c.* are neither eaſily digeſted, nor afford

of great importance to the ſtate: Beſides, diſeaſes occaſioned by unwholeſome food often prove infectious, by which means they reach people in every ſtation. It is therefore the intereſt of all to take care that no ſpoilt proviſions of any kind be expoſed to ſale.

wholeſome nouriſhment. No animal can be wholeſome which does not take ſufficient exerciſe. Moſt of our ſtalled cattle, hogs, &c. are crammed with groſs food, but not allowed exerciſe nor free air; by which means they indeed grow fat, but their humours, not being properly prepared or aſſimulated, remain crude, and occaſion indigeſtions, groſs humours, and oppreſſion of the ſpirits, in thoſe who feed upon them.

Animals are often rendered unwholeſome by being over-heated. Exceſſive heat cauſes a fever, exalts the animal ſalts, and mixes the blood ſo intimately with the fleſh, that it cannot be ſeparated. For this reaſon butchers ſhould be ſeverely puniſhed who over-drive their cattle. No perſon would chuſe to eat the fleſh of an animal which had died in a high fever; yet that is the caſe with all overdrove cattle; and the fever is often raiſed even to the degree of madneſs.

But this is not the only way by which butchers render meat unwholeſome. The abominable cuſtom of filling the cellular membrane of animals with air, in order to make them appear fat, is every day practiſed. This not only ſpoils the meat, and renders it unfit for keeping, but is ſuch a dirty trick, that the very idea of it is ſufficient to diſguſt a perſon of any delicacy at every thing which comes from the ſhambles. Who can bear the thought of eating meat which has been blown up with air from the lungs of a dirty fellow, perhaps labouring under the very worſt of diſeaſes?

No

No people in the world eat ſuch quantities of animal food as the Engliſh; this is one reaſon why they are ſo generally tainted with the ſcurvy, and its numerous train of conſequences, as indigeſtion, low ſpirits, hypochondriaciſm, &c. Animal food was ſurely deſigned for man, and, with a proper mixture of vegetables, it will be found the moſt wholeſome; but, to gorge beef, mutton, pork, fiſh, and fowl, twice or thrice a day, is certainly too much. All who value health ought to be contented with making one meal of fleſh-meat in the twenty-four hours, and this ought to conſiſt of one kind only.

The moſt obſtinate ſcurvy has often been cured by a vegetable diet; nay, milk alone will frequently do more in that diſeaſe than any medicine. From hence it is evident, that if vegetables and milk were more uſed in diet, we ſhould have leſs ſcurvy, and likewiſe fewer putrid and inflammatory fevers.

Our aliment ought neither to be too moiſt, nor too dry. Moiſt aliment relaxes the ſolids, and renders the body feeble. Thus we ſee females, who live much on tea and other watery diet, generally become weak, and unable to digeſt ſolid food; from whence proceed hyſterics, and all their dreadful conſequences *. On the other hand,

* Much has been ſaid on the ill effects of tea in diet. They are, no doubt, numerous; but they proceed rather from the imprudent uſe of it, than from any bad qualities in

hand, food that is too dry, renders the ſolids in a manner rigid, and the humours viſcid, which diſpoſes the body to inflammatory fevers, ſcurvies, and the like.

The arts of cookery render many things unwholeſome, which are not ſo in their own nature. By jumbling together a number of different ingredients, in order to make a poignant ſauce, or rich ſoup, the compoſition proves almoſt a poiſon. All high ſeaſoning, pickles, &c. are only incentives to luxury, and never fail to hurt the ſtomach. It were well for mankind if cookery, as an art, were entirely prohibited. Plain roaſting or boiling is all that the ſtomach requires. Theſe alone are ſufficient for people in health, and the ſick have ſtill leſs need of a cook.

The liquid part of our aliment likewiſe claims our attention. Water is not only the baſis of moſt liquors, but alſo compoſes a great part of our ſolid food. Good water muſt therefore be of

in the tea itſelf. Tea is now the univerſal breakfaſt in this part of the world; but the morning is ſurely the moſt improper time of the day for drinking it. Moſt delicate perſons, who, by the by, are the greateſt tea-drinkers, cannot eat any thing in the morning. If ſuch perſons, after faſting ten or twelve hours, drink five or ſix cups of tea, without eating half an ounce of bread, it muſt hurt them. Good tea, taken in moderate quantity, not too ſtrong, nor too hot, nor drunk upon an empty ſtomach, will ſeldom do harm; but if it be bad, which is often the caſe, or ſubſtituted in the room of ſolid food, it muſt have many ill effects.

the greateſt importance in diet. The beſt water is that which is moſt pure, and free from any mixture of foreign bodies. Water takes up parts of moſt bodies with which it comes into contact; by which means it is often impregnated with metals or minerals of a hurtful or poiſonous nature.

The inhabitants of ſome hilly countries have peculiar diſeaſes, which in all probability proceed from the water. Thus the people who live near the Alps in Switzerland, and the inhabitants of the Peak of Derby in England, have large tumours or wens on their necks. This diſeaſe is generally imputed to the ſnow-water; but there is more reaſon to believe it is owing to the minerals in the mountains through which the waters paſs.

When water is impregnated with foreign bodies, it generally appears by its weight, colour, taſte, ſmell, heat, or ſome other ſenſible quality. Our buſineſs therefore is to chuſe ſuch water, for common uſe, as is lighteſt, and without any particular colour, taſte, or ſmell. In moſt places of Britain the inhabitants have it in their power to make choice of their water, and few things would contribute more to health than a due attention to this article. But mere indolence often induces people to make uſe of the water that is neareſt them, without conſidering its qualities.

Before water be brought into great towns, the ſtricteſt attention ought to be paid to its qualities, as

as many diſeaſes may be occaſioned or aggravated by bad water; and, when once it has been procured at a great expence, people are unwilling to give it up.

The common methods of rendering water clear by filtration, or ſoft by expoſing it to the ſun and air, &c. are ſo generally known, that it is unneceſſary to ſpend time in explaining them. We ſhall only, in general, adviſe all to avoid waters which ſtagnate long in ſmall lakes, ponds, or the like, as ſuch waters often become putrid. Even cattle frequently ſuffer by drinking, in dry ſeaſons, water which has ſtood long in ſmall reſervoirs, without being ſupplied by ſprings, or freſhened with ſhowers. All wells ought to be kept clean, and to have a free communication with the air. When either animal or vegetable ſubſtances are ſuffered to lie at the bottom of wells, they corrupt and taint the water. Even the air itſelf, when confined in wells, becomes poiſonous, and muſt render the water leſs wholeſome.

As fermented liquors, notwithſtanding they have been exclaimed againſt by many writers, ſtill continue to be the common drink of almoſt every perſon who can afford them; we ſhall rather endeavour to aſſiſt people in their choice of theſe liquors, than pretend to condemn what cuſtom has ſo firmly eſtabliſhed. It is not the moderate uſe of ſound fermented liquors which hurts mankind; it is exceſs, and uſing ſuch as are ill-prepared or vitiated.

FERMENTED liquors, which are too ſtrong, hurt digeſtion, rather than aſſiſt it; and the body is ſo far from being ſtrengthened by them, that it is weakened and relaxed. Many imagine, that hard labour could not be ſupported without drinking ſtrong liquors: This is a very erroneous notion. Men who never taſte ſtrong liquors are not only able to endure more fatigue, but alſo live much longer than thoſe who uſe them daily. But, ſuppoſe ſtrong liquors did enable a man to do more work, they muſt nevertheleſs waſte the powers of life, and occaſion premature old age. They keep up a conſtant fever, which exhauſts the ſpirits, heats and inflames the blood, and diſpoſes the body to numberleſs diſeaſes.

BUT fermented liquors may be too weak as well as too ſtrong: When that is the caſe, they muſt either be drunk new, or they become ſour and dead; when ſuch liquors are drunk new, the fermentation not being over, they generate air in the bowels, and occaſion flatulencies; and, when kept till ſtale, they ſour on the ſtomach, and hurt digeſtion. For this reaſon all malt-liquors, cyder, &c. ought to be of ſuch ſtrength as to keep till they be ripe, and then they ſhould be uſed. When ſuch liquors are kept too long, though they ſhould not become ſour, yet they generally contract a hardneſs, which renders them unwholeſome. Thus we find that bottled ale hurts the ſtomach, occaſions the gravel, &c.

ALE

All families, who can, ought to prepare their own liquors. Since preparing and vending of liquors became one of the moſt general branches of buſineſs, every method has been tried to adulterate them. The great object both of the makers and venders of liquor is, to render it intoxicating. But it is well known that this may be done by other ingredients than thoſe which ought to be uſed for making it ſtrong. It would be imprudent even to name thoſe things which are daily made uſe of to render liquors heady. Suffice it to ſay, that the practice is very common, and that all the ingredients uſed for this purpoſe are of a narcotic or ſtupifactive nature. But, as all opiates are of a poiſonous quality, it is eaſy to ſee what muſt be the conſequence of their general uſe. Though they do not kill ſuddenly, yet they hurt the nerves, relax and weaken the ſtomach, and ſpoil the digeſtion, &c.

Were fermented liquors faithfully prepared, kept to a proper age, and uſed in moderation, they would prove real bleſſings to mankind. But, while they are ill prepared, various ways adulterated, and taken to exceſs, they muſt have many bad conſequences.

We would recommend it to families, not only to prepare their own liquors, but likewiſe their bread. Bread is ſo neceſſary a part of diet, that too much care cannot be beſtowed in order to have it ſound and wholeſome. For this purpoſe, it is

not only neceſſary that it be made of good grain, but likewiſe properly prepared, and kept free from all unwholeſome ingredients. This, however, we have reaſon to believe, is not always the caſe with bread prepared by thoſe who make a trade of vending it. Their object is rather to pleaſe the eye, than to conſult the health. The beſt bread is that which is neither too coarſe nor too fine; well fermented, and made of wheat flour, or rather of wheat and rye mixed together.

To ſpecify the different kinds of aliment, to explain their nature and properties, and to point out their effects in different conſtitutions, would far exceed the limits of our deſign. Inſtead of a detail of this kind, which would not be generally underſtood, and, of courſe, little attended to, we ſhall only mention the following eaſy rules with reſpect to the choice of aliment.

Persons, whoſe ſolids are weak and relaxed, ought to avoid all viſcid food, or ſuch things as are hard of digeſtion. Their diet, however, ought to be ſolid; and they ſhould take plenty of exerciſe in the open air.

Such as abound with blood ſhould be ſparing in the uſe of every thing that is highly nouriſhing, as fat meat, rich wines, ſtrong ale, &c. Their food ſhould conſiſt moſtly of bread and other vegetable ſubſtances; and their drink ought to be water, whey, and the like.

Fat people ſhould not eat freely of oily nouriſhing diet. They ought frequently to uſe radiſh

diſh, garlic, ſpices, or ſuch things as are heating and promote perſpiration and urine. Their drink ſhould be water, coffee, tea, or the like; and they ought to take much exerciſe and little ſleep.

Those who are too lean muſt follow an oppoſite courſe.

Such as are troubled with acidities, or whoſe food is apt to ſour on their ſtomach, ſhould live much on fleſh-meats; and thoſe who are afflicted with hot alkaline eructations, ought to uſe a diet conſiſting chiefly of acid vegetables.

People who are affected with the gout, low ſpirits, hypochondriac, or hyſteric diſorders, ought to avoid all flatulent food, every thing that is viſcid, or hard of digeſtion, all ſalted or ſmoke-dried proviſions, and whatever is auſtere, acid, or apt to ſour on the ſtomach. Their food ſhould be light, ſpare, cool, and of an opening nature.

The diet ought not only to be ſuited to the age and conſtitution, but alſo to the manner of life: A ſedentary or ſtudious perſon ſhould live more ſparingly than one who labours hard without doors. Many kinds of food will nouriſh a peaſant very well, which would be almoſt indigeſtible to a citizen; and the latter will live upon a diet on which the former would ſtarve.

Diet ought not to be too uniform. The conſtant uſe of one kind of food might have ſome bad effects. Nature teaches us this, by the great variety of aliments which ſhe has provided for man,

and likewiſe by giving him an appetite for different kinds of food.

Thoſe who labour under any particular diſeaſe, ought to avoid ſuch aliments as have a tendency to increaſe it: For example, a gouty perſon ſhould not uſe rich wines, ſtrong ſoups, or gravies, and ſhould avoid all acids. One who is troubled with the gravel ought to ſhun all auſtere and aſtringent aliments; and thoſe who are ſcorbutic ſhould not indulge in animal food, &c.

In the firſt period of life, our food ought to be light, nouriſhing, and of a diluting nature, but frequently uſed. Food that is ſolid, with a ſufficient degree of tenacity, is moſt proper for the ſtate of manhood. The diet ſuited to the laſt period of life, when nature is upon the decline, approaches nearly to that of the firſt. It ſhould be lighter, and more diluting than that of vigorous age, and likewiſe more frequently taken.

It is not only neceſſary for health that our diet be wholeſome, but alſo that it be taken at regular periods. Some imagine, that long faſting will atone for exceſs; but this, inſtead of mending the matter, generally makes it worſe. When the ſtomach and inteſtines are over-diſtended with food, they loſe their proper tone, and, by long faſting, they become weak, and inflated with wind. Thus, either gluttony or faſting deſtroys the powers of digeſtion.

The frequent repetition of aliment is not only neceſſary for repairing the continual waſte of our bodies,

bodies, but likewiſe to keep the humours ſound and ſweet. Our humours, even in the moſt healthy ſtate, have a conſtant tendency to become putrid, which can only be prevented by frequent ſupplies of freſh nouriſhment: When that is wanting too long, the putrefaction often proceeds ſo far, as to occaſion very dangerous fevers. From hence we may learn the neceſſity of regular meals. No perſon can enjoy a good ſtate of health, whoſe veſſels are either frequently overcharged, or the humours long deprived of freſh ſupplies of chyle.

Long faſting is extremely hurtful to young people; it vitiates their humours, and prevents their growth and ſtrength: Nor is it leſs injurious to the aged. Moſt perſons, in the decline of life, are afflicted with wind: This complaint is not only increaſed, but even rendered dangerous, and often fatal, by long faſting. Old people, when their ſtomachs are empty, are frequently ſeized with giddineſs, headachs, and faintneſs. Theſe complaints may generally be removed by a bit of bread and a glaſs of wine, or taking any other ſolid food; which plainly points out the method of preventing them.

It is more than probable, that many of the ſudden deaths, which happen in the advanced periods of life, are occaſioned by faſting too long, as it exhauſts the ſpirits, and fills the bowels with wind; we would therefore adviſe people, in the decline of life, never to allow their ſtomachs to be too long empty. Many people take nothing but a few

cups

cups of tea and a bit of bread, from nine o'clock at night till two or three next afternoon. Such may be ſaid almoſt to faſt three-fourths of their time. This can hardly fail to ruin the appetite, vitiate the humours, and fill the bowels with wind; all which might be prevented by a ſolid breakfaſt.

It is a very common practice to eat a light breakfaſt and a heavy ſupper. This cuſtom ought to be reverſed. When people ſup late, their ſupper ſhould be very light; but the breakfaſt ought always to be ſolid. If any one eats a light ſupper, goes ſoon to bed, and riſes betimes in the morning, he will be ſure to find an appetite for his breakfaſt, and he may freely indulge it.

The ſtrong and healthy do not indeed ſuffer ſo much from faſting as the weak and delicate; but they run great hazard from its oppoſite, *viz.* repletion. Many diſeaſes, eſpecially fevers, are the effect of a plethora, or too great fulneſs of the veſſels. Strong people, in high health, have generally a great quantity of blood and other humours. When theſe are ſuddenly increaſed, by an overcharge of rich and nouriſhing diet, the veſſels become too much diſtended, and obſtructions and inflammations enſue. Hence ſo many people are ſeized with inflammatory and eruptive fevers, after a feaſt or debauch.

All great and ſudden changes in diet are dangerous. What the ſtomach has been long accuſtomed

tomed to digeſt, though leſs wholeſome, will agree better with it than food of a more ſalutary nature which it has not been uſed to. When therefore a change becomes neceſſary, it ought always to be made gradually; as a ſudden tranſition from a poor and low, to a rich and luxurious diet, or the contrary, might ſo diſturb the functions of the body as to endanger health, or even to occaſion death itſelf.

When we recommend regularity in diet, we would not be underſtood as condemning every ſmall deviation from it. It is next to impoſſible for people at all times to avoid ſome degree of exceſs, and living too much by rule might make even the ſmalleſt deviation dangerous. It may therefore be prudent to vary a little, ſometimes taking more, ſometimes leſs, than the uſual quantity of meat and drink, provided always that regard be had to moderation.

CHAP.

CHAP. IV.

OF AIR.

UNWHOLESOME air is a very common cauſe of diſeaſes. Few are aware of the danger ariſing from it. People generally pay ſome attention to what they eat and drink, but ſeldom regard what goes into the lungs, though the latter proves often more ſuddenly fatal than the former.

Air, as well as water, takes up parts of moſt bodies with which it comes into contact, and is often ſo repleniſhed with thoſe of a noxious quality, as to occaſion immediate death. But ſuch violent effects ſeldom happen, as people are generally on their guard againſt them. The leſs perceptible influences of bad air prove more generally hurtful to mankind; we ſhall therefore endeavour to point out ſome of theſe, and to ſhew from whence the danger chiefly ariſes.

Air may become noxious many ways. Whatever greatly alters its degree of heat, cold, moiſture, &c. renders it unwholeſome: For example, that which is too hot diſſipates the watery parts of the blood, exalts the bile, and renders the whole humours aduſt and thick. Hence proceed bilious and inflammatory fevers, cholera morbus, &c. Very cold air obſtructs the perſpiration, conſtringes the ſolids, and congeals the fluids. It occaſions rheumatiſms, coughs and catarrhs, with

other

other diſeaſes of the throat, breaſt, &c. Air that is too moiſt deſtroys the elaſticity or ſpring of the ſolids, induces phlegmatic or lax conſtitutions, and diſpoſes the body to agues, or intermitting fevers, dropſies, &c.

Wherever great numbers of people are crouded into one place, if the air has not a free current, it ſoon becomes unwholeſome. Hence it is that delicate perſons are ſo apt to turn ſick or faint in crouded churches, aſſemblies, or any place where the air is exhauſted by breathing, fires, candles, or the like.

In great cities ſo many things tend to pollute the air, that it is no wonder it proves ſo fatal to the inhabitants. The air in cities is not only breathed repeatedly over, but is likewiſe loaded with ſulphur, ſmoke, and other exhalations, beſides the vapours continually ariſing from innumerable putrid ſubſtances, as dunghills, ſlaughter-houſes, &c. All poſſible care ſhould be taken to keep the ſtreets of large towns open and wide, that the air may have a free current through them. They ought likewiſe to be kept very clean. Nothing tends more to pollute and contaminate the air of a city than dirty ſtreets.

It is very common in this country to have church-yards in the middle of populous cities. Whether this be the effect of ancient ſuperſtition, or owing to the increaſe of ſuch towns, is a matter of no conſequence. Whatever gave riſe to the cuſtom, it is a bad one. It is habit alone which reconciles

reconciles us to theſe things; by means of which the moſt ridiculous, nay, pernicious cuſtoms, often become ſacred. Certain it is, that thouſands of putrid carcaſſes, ſo near the ſurface of the earth, in a place where the air is confined, cannot fail to taint it; and that ſuch air, when breathed into the lungs, muſt occaſion diſeaſes *.

BURYING within churches is a practice ſtill more deteſtable. The air in churches is ſeldom good, and the effluvia from putrid carcaſſes muſt render it ſtill worſe. Churches are commonly old buildings with arched roofs. They are ſeldom open above once a week, are never ventilated by fires nor open windows, and rarely kept clean. This occaſions that damp, muſty, unwholeſome ſmell which one feels upon entering a church, and renders it a very unſafe place for the weak and valetudinary. Theſe inconveniences might, in a great meaſure, be obviated by prohibiting all perſons from burying within churches, by keeping them clean, and permitting a ſtream of freſh air to paſs frequently through them by opening oppoſite doors and windows, &c.

WHEREVER air ſtagnates long, it becomes unwholeſome. Hence the unhappy perſons confined in jails not only contract malignant fevers them-

* In moſt eaſtern countries it was cuſtomary to bury the dead at ſome diſtance from any town. As this practice obtained among the Jews, the Greeks, and alſo the Romans, it is ſtrange that the weſtern parts of Europe ſhould not have followed their example in a cuſtom ſo truly laudable.

ſelves, but often communicate them to others. Nor are many of the holes, for we cannot call them houſes, poſſeſſed by the poor in great towns, much better than jails. Theſe low dirty habitations are the very lurking places of bad air and contagious diſeaſes. Such as live in them ſeldom enjoy good health; and their children commonly die young. In the choice of a houſe, thoſe who have it in their power ought always to pay the greateſt attention to free open air.

The various methods which luxury has invented to make houſes cloſe and warm, contribute not a little to render them unwholeſome. No houſe can be wholeſome unleſs the air has a free paſſage through it. For which reaſon houſes ought daily to be ventilated by opening oppoſite windows, and admitting a current of freſh air into every room. Beds, inſtead of being made up as ſoon as people riſe out of them, ought to be turned down and expoſed to the freſh air from the open windows through the day. This would expel any noxious vapour, and could not fail to promote the health of the inhabitants.

In hoſpitals, jails, ſhips, &c. where that cannot be conveniently done, ventilators ſhould be uſed. The method of expelling foul, and introducing freſh air, by means of ventilators, is a moſt ſalutary invention, and is indeed the moſt uſeful of all our modern medical improvements. It is capable of univerſal application, and is fraught with numerous

numerous advantages, both to thoſe in health and ſickneſs.

AIR which ſtagnates in mines, wells, cellars, &c. is extremely noxious. That kind of air is to be avoided as the moſt deadly poiſon. It often kills almoſt as quickly as lightening. For this reaſon, people ſhould be very cautious in opening cellars that have been long ſhut, or going down into deep wells, or pits, eſpecially if they have been kept cloſe covered.

MANY people who have ſplendid houſes, chuſe to ſleep in ſmall apartments. This conduct is very imprudent. A bed-chamber ought always to be well aired; as it is generally occupied in the night only, when all doors and windows are ſhut. If a fire be kept in it, the danger becomes ſtill greater. Many have been ſtifled when aſleep by a fire in a ſmall apartment.

THOSE who are obliged, on account of buſineſs, to ſpend the day in cloſe towns, ought, if poſſible, to ſleep in the country. Breathing free air in the night will, in ſome meaſure, make up for the want of it through the day. This practice would have a greater effect in preſerving the health of citizens than is commonly imagined.

DELICATE perſons ought, as much as poſſible, to avoid the air of great towns. It is peculiarly hurtful to the aſthmatic and conſumptive. Such perſons ſhould fly cities as they would do the plague. The hypochondriac are likewiſe much hurt

hurt by it. I have often ſeen perſons ſo much afflicted with this malady while in town, that it ſeemed impoſſible for them to live, who, upon being removed to the country, were immediately relieved. The ſame obſervation holds with regard to nervous and hyſteric women. Many people, indeed, have it not in their power to change their ſituation in queſt of better air. All we can ſay to ſuch perſons is, that they ſhould go as often abroad into the open air as they can, that they ſhould admit freſh air frequently into their houſes, and take care to keep them very clean.

It was neceſſary in former times, for ſafety, to ſurround cities, colleges, and even ſingle houſes, with high walls. Theſe, by obſtructing the free current of air, never fail to render ſuch places damp and unwholeſome. As ſuch walls are now, in moſt parts of this country, become uſeleſs, they ought to be pulled down, and every method taken to admit a free paſſage to the air. Proper attention to Air and Cleanliness would tend more to preſerve the health of mankind, than all the endeavours of the faculty.

Surrounding houſes too cloſely with planting, or thick woods, likewiſe tends to render the air unwholeſome. Wood not only obſtructs the free current of the air, but ſends forth great quantities of moiſt exhalations, which render it conſtantly damp. Wood is very agreeable at a proper diſtance from a houſe, but ſhould never be planted too near it, eſpecially in a flat country. Many of the gen-

tlemen's ſeats in England are rendered very un wholeſome from the great quantity of wood whic ſurrounds them.

Houses ſituated in low marſhy countries, o near large lakes of ſtagnating water, are likewiſ unwholeſome. Waters which ſtagnate not onl render the air damp, but load it with putrid exha lations, which produce the moſt dangerous an fatal diſeaſes. Thoſe who are obliged to inhabi marſhy countries, ought to make choice of th dryeſt ſituations they can find, to live generouſly and to pay the ſtricteſt regard to cleanlineſs.

If freſh air be neceſſary for thoſe in health, it i ſtill more ſo for the ſick, who often loſe their live for want of it. The notion that ſick people muſt be kept very hot, is ſo common, that one can hardly enter the chamber where a patient lies with out being ready to faint, by reaſon of the hot ſuf focating ſmell. How this muſt affect the ſick, any one may judge. No medicine is ſo beneficial to the ſick as freſh air. It is the moſt reviving o all cordials, if it be adminiſtered with prudence. We are not however to throw open doors and windows at random upon the ſick. Freſh air is to be let into the chamber gradually, and, if poſſible, by opening the windows of ſome other apartment.

The air of a ſick perſon's chamber may be greatly freſhened, and the patient much revived, by ſprinkling the floor, bed, &c. frequently with vinegar,

vinegar, juice of lemon, or any other ſtrong vegetable acid.

In places where numbers of ſick are crouded into the ſame houſe, or, which is often the caſe, into the ſame apartment, the frequent admiſſion of freſh air becomes abſolutely neceſſary. Infirmaries, hoſpitals, &c. often become ſo noxious, for want of proper ventilation, that the ſick run more hazard from them than from the diſeaſe. This is particularly the caſe when putrid fevers, dyſenteries, and other infectious diſeaſes prevail.

Physicians, ſurgeons, and others who attend hoſpitals, ought, for their own ſake, to take care that they be properly ventilated. Such perſons as are obliged to ſpend much of their time amongſt the ſick, run great hazard of being themſelves infected when the air is bad. All hoſpitals, and places for the ſick, ought to have an open ſituation, at ſome diſtance from any great town.

CHAP. V.

OF EXERCISE.

MANY people look upon the neceſſity man is under of earning his bread by labour as a curſe. Be this as it may, it is evident from the ſtructure of the body, that exerciſe is not leſs neceſſary than food for the preſervation of health: Thoſe whom poverty obliges to labour for daily bread, are not only the moſt healthy, but generally the moſt happy part of mankind. Induſtry ſeldom fails to place ſuch above want, and activity ſerves them inſtead of phyſic. This is peculiarly the caſe with thoſe who live by the culture of the ground. The great increaſe of inhabitants in infant colonies, and the common longevity of ſuch as follow agriculture every where, evidently prove it to be the moſt healthful as well as the moſt uſeful employment.

THE love of activity ſhews itſelf very early in man. So ſtrong is this principle, that a healthy youth cannot be reſtrained from exerciſe, even by the fear of puniſhment. Our love of motion is ſurely a ſtrong proof of its utility. Nature implants no diſpoſition in vain. It ſeems to be a catholic law throughout the whole animal creation, that no creature, without exerciſe, ſhould enjoy health.

health. Every creature, except man, takes as much of it as is neceſſary. He alone, and ſuch animals as are under his direction, deviate from this original law, and they ſuffer accordingly.

INACTIVITY never fails to induce an univerſal relaxation of the ſolids, which occaſions innumerable diſeaſes. When the ſolids are relaxed, neither the digeſtion, nor any of the ſecretions, can be duly performed. In this caſe, the worſt conſequences muſt enſue. How can perſons who loll all day in eaſy chairs, and ſleep all night on beds of down, fail to be relaxed? Nor do ſuch greatly mend the matter, who never ſtir abroad but in a coach, ſedan, or ſuch like. Theſe elegant pieces of luxury are become ſo common, that the inhabitants of great towns ſeem to be in ſome danger of loſing the uſe of their limbs altogether. 'Tis now below any one to walk who can afford to be carried. How ridiculous would it ſeem, to a perſon unacquainted with modern luxury, to behold the young and healthy ſwinging along on the ſhoulders of their fellow-creatures! or to ſee a fat carcaſe, over-run with diſeaſes occaſioned by inactivity, dragged along the ſtreets by half a dozen horſes *.

GLANDULAR obſtructions, which are now ſo common, generally proceed from inactivity. Theſe are

* It is by no means neceſſity, but faſhion, which makes the uſe of machines ſo common. I know many people who have not exerciſe enough to keep their humours from ſtagnation, who

are the moſt obſtinate of all maladies. So long as the liver, kidnies, and other glands, duly perform their functions, health is ſeldom impaired; but, when they fail, nothing can preſerve it. Exerciſe is almoſt the only cure we know for glandular obſtructions; indeed, it does not always ſucceed as a remedy; but there is reaſon to believe that it would ſeldom fail to prevent theſe complaints, were it uſed in due time. One thing is certain, that, amongſt thoſe who take ſufficient exerciſe, glandular diſeaſes are very little known; whereas the indolent and inactive are ſeldom free from them.

WEAK nerves are the conſtant companions of inactivity. Nothing but exerciſe and open air can brace and ſtrengthen the nerves, or prevent the endleſs train of diſeaſes which proceed from a relaxed ſtate of theſe organs. We ſeldom hear the active or laborious complain of nervous diſeaſes; theſe are reſerved for the ſons of eaſe and affluence. Many have been completely cured of theſe diſorders by being reduced, from a ſtate of opulence, to labour for their daily bread. This plainly points out the ſources from whence nervous diſeaſes flow, and the means by which they may be prevented.

yet dare not venture to make a viſit to their next neighbours, but in a coach or ſedan, for fear of being looked down upon. Strange that men ſhould be ſuch fools as to be laughed out of the uſe of their limbs, or to throw away their health, in order to gratify a piece of vanity, or to comply with a ridiculous faſhion.

It is abſolutely impoſſible to enjoy health, where the perſpiration is not duly carried on; but that can never be the caſe where exerciſe is neglected. When the matter which ought to be thrown off by perſpiration is retained in the body, it vitiates the humours, and occaſions the gout, fevers, rheumatiſm, &c. Exerciſe alone would prevent many of thoſe diſeaſes which cannot be cured, and would remove others where medicine proves ineffectual.

A late author *, in his excellent treatiſe on health, ſays, that the weak and valetudinary ought to make exerciſe a part of their religion. We would recommend this, not only to the weak and valetudinary, but to all whoſe buſineſs does not oblige them to take ſufficient exerciſe, as ſedentary artificers †, ſhop-keepers, ſtudious perſons, &c. Such ought to uſe exerciſe as regularly as they take food. This might generally be done

* Cheyne.

† Sedentary occupations ought chiefly to be followed by women. They bear confinement much better than men, and are fitter for every kind of buſineſs which does not require much ſtrength. It is ridiculous enough to ſee a luſty fellow making pins, needles, or watch-wheels, while many of the laborious parts of huſbandry are carried on by the other ſex. The fact is, we want men for laborious employments, while one half of the other ſex are rendered uſeleſs for want of occupations ſuited to their ſtrength, &c. Were girls bred to mechanical employments, we ſhould not ſee ſuch numbers of them proſtitute themſelves for bread, nor find ſuch a want of men for the important purpoſes of navigation, agriculture, &c.

without any interruption to buſineſs or real loſs of time.

No piece of indolence hurts the health more than the modern cuſtom of lolling a-bed too long in a morning. This is the general practice in great towns. The inhabitants of cities ſeldom riſe before eight or nine o'clock; but the morning is undoubtedly the beſt time for exerciſe, while the ſtomach is empty, and the body refreſhed with ſleep. Beſides, the morning-air braces and ſtrengthens the nerves, and, in ſome meaſure, anſwers the purpoſe of a cold bath. Let any one who has been accuſtomed to lie a-bed till eight or nine o'clock, riſe by ſix or ſeven, ſpend a couple of hours in walking, riding, or any active diverſion without doors, and he will find his ſpirits cheerful and ſerene through the day, his appetite keen, and his body braced and ſtrengthened. Cuſtom ſoon renders early riſing agreeable, and nothing contributes more to the preſervation of health.

The inactive are continually complaining of pains of the ſtomach, flatulencies, indigeſtions, &c. Theſe complaints, which pave the way to many others, are not to be removed by medicines. They can only be cured by a vigorous courſe of exerciſe, to which indeed they ſeldom fail to yield.

Exercise, if poſſible, ought always to be taken in the open air. When that cannot be done, various methods may be contrived for exerciſing the body within doors, as the dumb bell, dancing, fencing,

fencing, &c. It is not neceſſary to adhere ſtrictly to any particular kind of exerciſe. The beſt way is to take them by turns, and to uſe that longeſt which is moſt ſuitable to the ſtrength and conſtitution. Theſe kinds of exerciſe which give action to moſt of the bodily organs, are always to be preferred, as walking, running, riding, digging, ſwimming, and ſuch like.

It is much to be regretted, that active and manly diverſions are now ſo little practiſed. Diverſions make people take more exerciſe than they otherwiſe would do, and are of the greateſt ſervice to ſuch as are not under the neceſſity of labouring for their bread. As active diverſions loſe ground, thoſe of a ſedentary kind ſeem to prevail. Sedentary diverſions are of no other uſe but to conſume time. Inſtead of relieving the mind, they often require more thought than either ſtudy or buſineſs. Every thing that induces people to ſit ſtill, unleſs it be ſome neceſſary employment, ought to be avoided.

The diverſions which afford the beſt exerciſe are, hunting, ſhooting, playing at cricket, hand-ball, golff *, &c. Theſe exerciſe the limbs, promote perſpiration, and the other ſecretions. They like-

* Golff is a diverſion very common in North Britain. It is well calculated for exerciſing the body, and may always be taken in ſuch moderation, as neither to over-heat nor fatigue. It has greatly the preference over cricket, tennis, or any of thoſe games which cannot be played without violence.

wiſe

wiſe ſtrengthen the lungs, and give firmneſs and agility to the whole body.

Such as can, ought to ſpend two or three hours a-day on horſeback; thoſe who cannot ride ſhould employ the ſame time in walking. Exerciſe ſhould never be continued too long. Overfatigue prevents the benefit of exerciſe, and weakens inſtead of ſtrengthening the body.

Every man ſhould lay himſelf under ſome ſort of neceſſity to take exerciſe. Indolence, like all other vices, when indulged, gains ground, and at length becomes agreeable. Hence many who were fond of exerciſe in the early part of life, become quite averſe to it afterwards. This is the caſe of moſt hypochondriac and gouty people, which renders their diſeaſes in a great meaſure incurable.

In ſome countries laws have been made, obliging every man, of whatever rank, to learn ſome mechanical employment. Whether ſuch laws were deſigned for the preſervation of health, or the encouragement of manufacture, is a queſtion of no importance. Certain it is, that if gentlemen were frequently to amuſe and exerciſe themſelves in this way, it might have many good effects. They would at leaſt derive as much honour from a few maſterly ſpecimens of their own workmanſhip, as from the character of having ruined moſt of their companions by gaming, or drinking. Beſides, men of leiſure, by applying themſelves

to

to the mechanical arts, might improve them, to the great benefit of ſociety.

INDOLENCE not only occaſions diſeaſes, and renders men uſeleſs to ſociety, but promotes all manner of vice. To ſay a man is idle, is little better than calling him vicious. The mind, if not engaged in ſome uſeful purſuit, is conſtantly in queſt of ideal pleaſures, or impreſſed with the apprehenſion of ſome imaginary evil. From theſe ſources proceed moſt of the miſeries of mankind. Certainly man never was intended to be idle. Inactivity fruſtrates the very deſign of his creation; whereas an active life is the beſt guardian of virtue, and the greateſt preſervative of health.

CHAP.

CHAP. VI.

OF SLEEP AND CLOTHING.

SLEEP, as well as diet, ought to be duly regulated. Too little ſleep weakens the nerves, exhauſts the ſpirits, and occaſions diſeaſes; and too much renders the mind dull, the body groſs, and diſpoſes it to apoplexies, lethargies, and ſuch like. A medium ought therefore to be obſerved; but this is not eaſy to fix. Children require more ſleep than grown perſons, the laborious than the idle, and ſuch as eat and drink freely, than thoſe who live abſtemiouſly. Beſides, the real quantity of ſleep cannot be meaſured by time; as one perſon will be more refreſhed by five or ſix hours ſleep than another by eight or ten.

CHILDREN may always be allowed to take as much ſleep as they pleaſe; but, for adults, ſix or ſeven hours is certainly ſufficient, and no one ought to exceed eight. Thoſe who lie more than eight hours a-bed may ſlumber, but they can hardly be ſaid to ſleep; ſuch generally toſs and dream away the fore-part of the night, ſink to reſt towards morning, and doſe till noon. The beſt way to make ſleep ſound and refreſhing is to riſe betimes. The indolent cuſtom of lolling a-bed for nine or ten hours, not only makes the ſleep leſs refreſhing,

freſhing, but relaxes the nerves, and greatly weakens the conſtitution.

NATURE points out night as the proper ſeaſon for ſleep. Nothing more certainly deſtroys the conſtitution than night-watching. It is great pity that a practice ſo deſtructive to health ſhould be ſo much in faſhion. How quickly the want of reſt in due ſeaſon will blaſt the moſt blooming complexion, or ruin the beſt conſtitution, is evident from the ghaſtly countenances of thoſe who, as the phraſe is, turn day into night, and night into day.

To make ſleep refreſhing, the following things are neceſſary. Firſt, to take ſufficient exerciſe in the open air, through the day; next to eat a light ſupper; and laſtly, to lie down with a mind as cheerful and ſerene as poſſible.

IT is certain that too much exerciſe will prevent ſleep, as well as too little. We ſeldom however hear the active and laborious complain of reſtleſs nights. It is the indolent and ſlothful who generally have theſe complaints. Is it any wonder that a bed of down ſhould not be refreſhing to a perſon who lolls all day in an eaſy chair? A great part of the pleaſure of life conſiſts in alternate reſt and motion; but they who neglect the latter can never reliſh the former. The labourer enjoys more true luxury in plain food and ſound ſleep, than is to be found in ſumptuous tables and downy pillows, where exerciſe is wanting.

THAT

That light ſuppers cauſe ſound ſleep, is true even to a proverb. Many perſons, if they exceed the leaſt at that meal, are ſure to have uneaſy nights; and, if they fall aſleep, the load and oppreſſion on their ſtomach and ſpirits occaſion frightful dreams, broken and diſturbed repoſe, night-mares, &c. Were the ſame perſons to go to bed with a light ſupper, or ſit up till what they eat were pretty well digeſted, they would enjoy ſound ſleep, and riſe refreſhed and cheerful. There are indeed ſome people who cannot ſleep unleſs they have eat ſome ſolid food at night, but this does not imply the neceſſity of a heavy ſupper; beſides, theſe are generally perſons who have accuſtomed themſelves to this method, and who do not take a ſufficient quantity of ſolid food through the day.

Nothing more certainly diſturbs our repoſe than anxiety. When the mind is not at eaſe, one ſeldom enjoys ſound ſleep. That greateſt of human bleſſings often flies the wretch who needs it moſt, and viſits the happy, the cheerful, and the gay. This is a ſufficient reaſon why every man ſhould endeavour to be as eaſy in his mind as poſſible when he goes to reſt. Many, by indulging grief and anxious thought, have baniſhed ſound ſleep ſo long, that they could never afterwards enjoy it.

Sleep, when taken in the fore-part of the night, is generally reckoned moſt refreſhing. Whether this may be the effect of habit or not, is hard

to

to ſay; but, as moſt people are accuſtomed to go ſoon to bed in the early part of life, it may be preſumed that ſleep at this ſeaſon will prove moſt refreſhing to them ever after. But whether the fore-part of the night be beſt for ſleep or not, ſurely the fore-part of the day is fitter both for buſineſs and amuſement. I hardly ever knew an early riſer who did not enjoy a good ſtate of health.

Of clothing.

THE clothing ought to be ſuited to the climate. Cuſtom has no doubt a very great influence in this article; but no cuſtom can ever change the nature of things ſo far, as to render the ſame clothing fit for an inhabitant of Nova Zembla and the iſland of Jamaica. It is not indeed neceſſary to obſerve an exact proportion betwixt the quantity of clothes we wear and the degree of latitude which we inhabit; but, at the ſame time, proper attention ought to be paid to it, as well as to the openneſs of the country, the frequency and violence of ſtorms, *&c.*

IN youth, while the blood is hot and the perſpiration free, it is leſs neceſſary to cover the body with a great quantity of clothes; but, in the decline of life, when the ſkin becomes rigid and the humours more cool, the clothing ſhould be increaſed. Many diſeaſes in the latter period of life proceed from a defect of perſpiration; theſe may, in

in ſome meaſure, be prevented by a ſuitable addition to the clothing, or by wearing ſuch as are better calculated for promoting the diſcharge from the ſkin, as clothes made of cotton, flannel, *&c.*

FLANNEL indeed is now worn by almoſt every young fellow. This cuſtom is extremely prepoſterous. It not only makes them weak and effeminate, but renders flannel leſs uſeful at a time of life when it becomes more neceſſary. No young perſon ought to wear flannel, unleſs the rheumatiſm or ſome other diſeaſe renders it neceſſary.

THE clothing ought likewiſe to be ſuited to the ſeaſon of the year. Clothing may be warm enough for ſummer, which is by no means ſufficient for winter. The greateſt caution, however, is neceſſary in making theſe changes. We ought neither to put off our winter clothes too ſoon, nor to wear our ſummer ones too long. In this country, the winter often ſets in very early with great rigor, and we have frequently very cold weather even after the commencement of the ſummer months. It would likewiſe be prudent not to make the change all at once, but to do it gradually; and indeed the changes of apparel in this climate ought to be very inconſiderable, eſpecially among thoſe who have paſſed the meridian of life.

CLOTHES often becomes hurtful by their being made ſubſervient to the purpoſes of pride or vanity.

Mankind

Mankind in all ages ſeem to have conſidered clothes in this view; accordingly their faſhion and figure have been continually varying with very little regard either to health, the climate, or conveniency.

Even the human ſhape is often attempted to be mended by dreſs, and thoſe who know no better, believe that mankind would be monſters without its aſſiſtance. All attempts of this nature are highly pernicious. The moſt deſtructive of them in this country is that of ſqueezing the ſtomach and bowels into as narrow a compaſs as poſſible, to procure, what is falſely called, a fine ſhape. By this practice the action of the ſtomach and bowels, the motion of the heart and lungs, and almoſt all the vital functions, are obſtructed. Hence proceed indigeſtions, ſyncopes, or fainting fits, coughs, conſumptions of the lungs, &c.

The feet likewiſe often ſuffer by preſſure. How a ſmall foot came to be reckoned genteel, we ſhall not pretend to ſay; but certain it is, that this notion has made many perſons lame. Almoſt nine tenths of mankind are troubled with corns: a diſeaſe that is ſeldom or never occaſioned but by ſtrait ſhoes. Corns are not only very troubleſome, but, by rendering people unable to walk, they may likewiſe be conſidered as the remote cauſe of other diſeaſes.

In fixing on the clothes, due care ſhould be taken to avoid all tight bandages. Garters, buckles, &c.

when drawn too tight, not only prevent the free motion and uſe of the parts about which they are bound, but likewiſe obſtruct the circulation of the blood, which prevents the equal nouriſhment and growth of theſe parts, and occaſions various diſeaſes. Tight bandages about the neck, as ſtocks, cravats, necklaces, &c. are extremely dangerous. They obſtruct the blood in its courſe from the brain, by which means headachs, vertigos, apoplexies, and other fatal diſeaſes are often occaſioned.

The perfection of dreſs is to be eaſy and clean. Nothing can be more ridiculous, than for any one to make himſelf a ſlave to fine clothes. Such a one, and many ſuch there are, would rather remain as fixt as a ſtatue from morning to night, than diſcompoſe a ſingle hair, or alter the poſition of a pin. Were we to recommend any particular pattern for dreſs, it would be that which is worn by the people called Quakers. They are always neat, clean, and often elegant, without any thing ſuperfluous. What others lay out upon tawdry laces, ruffles, and ribands, they beſtow upon ſuperiour cleanlineſs. Finery is only the affectation of dreſs, and very often covers a great deal of dirt.

We ſhall only add, with regard to clothing, that it ought not only to be ſuited to the climate, the ſeaſon of the year, and the period of life; but likewiſe to the temperature and conſtitution. Robuſt perſons are able to endure either cold or hea-

heat better than the delicate; conſequently may be leſs attentive to their clothing. But the preciſe quantity of clothes neceſſary for any perſon cannot be determined by reaſoning. It is entirely a matter of experience, and every man is the beſt judge for himſelf what quantity of clothing is neceſſary to keep him warm.

CHAP. VII.

OF INTEMPERANCE.

A MODERN author * obſerves, that temperance and exerciſe are the two beſt phyſicians in the world. He might have added, that if theſe were duly regarded, there would be little occaſion for any other. Temperance may juſtly be called the parent of health; but numbers of mankind act as if they thought diſeaſes and death too ſlow in their progreſs, and, by intemperance and debauch, ſeem, as it were, to ſollicit their approach.

THE danger of intemperance appears from the very conſtruction of the human body. Health depends on that ſtate of the ſolids and fluids which fits them for the due performance of the vital functions; and, ſo long as theſe go regularly on, we are ſound and well; but whatever diſturbs them neceſſarily impairs health. Intemperance, however, never fails to diſorder the whole animal œconomy; it hurts the digeſtion, relaxes the nerves, renders the different ſecretions irregular, vitiates the humours, and occaſions numberleſs diſeaſes.

THE analogy between the nouriſhment of plants and animals affords a ſtrong proof of the danger of intemperance. Moiſture and manure greatly promote

* Rouſſeau.

promote vegetation; yet an over quantity of either will entirely prevent it. The beſt things become hurtful, nay deſtructive, when carried to exceſs. From hence we learn, that the higheſt degree of human wiſdom conſiſts in regulating our appetites and paſſions ſo as to avoid all extremes. 'Tis that alone which entitles us to the character of rational beings. The ſlave of appetite will ever be the diſgrace of human nature.

The Author of nature hath endued us with various paſſions, for the propagation of the ſpecies, the preſervation of the individual, &c. Intemperance is the abuſe of theſe paſſions; and moderation conſiſts in the proper regulation of them. Men, not contented with ſatisfying the ſimple calls of nature, create artificial wants, and are perpetually in ſearch of ſomething that may gratify them; but imaginary wants never can be gratified. Nature is content with little; but luxury knows no bounds. Hence the epicure, the drunkard, and the debauchee ſeldom ſtop in their career till their money, or their conſtitution fails: Then indeed they generally ſee their error when too late.

It is impoſſible to lay down fixt rules with regard to diet, on account of the different conſtitutions of mankind. The moſt ignorant perſon however certainly knows what is meant by exceſs; and it is in the power of every man, if he chuſes, to avoid it.

The great rule of diet is to ſtudy ſimplicity. Nature delights in the moſt plain and ſimple

food, and every animal, except man, follows her dictates. Man alone riots at large, and ranſacks the whole creation in queſt of luxuries, to his own deſtruction. An elegant writer * of the laſt age ſpeaks thus of intemperance in diet; "For my part, when I behold a faſhionable table "ſet out in all its magnificence, I fancy that I ſee "gouts and dropſies, fevers and lethargies, with "other innumerable diſtempers, lying in ambuſ-"cade among the diſhes."

Nor is intemperance in other things leſs deſtructive than in diet. How quickly does the immoderate purſuit of carnal pleaſures, or the abuſe of intoxicating liquors, ruin the beſt conſtitution! Indeed theſe vices generally go hand in hand. Hence it is that we ſo often behold the votaries of Bacchus and Venus, even before they have arrived at the prime of life, worn out with diſeaſes, and haſting with ſwift pace to an untimely grave. Did men reflect on the painful diſeaſes, and premature deaths, which are daily occaſioned by intemperance, it would be ſufficient to make them ſhrink back with horror from the indulgence even of their darling pleaſures.

Intemperance does not hurt its votaries alone; the innocent too often feel the direful effects of it. How many wretched orphans are to be ſeen embracing dunghills, whoſe parents, regardleſs of the future, ſpent in riot and debauch what might have ſerved to bring up their offspring in a decent

* Addiſon.

cent manner? How often do we behold the miſerable mother, with her helpleſs infants, pining in want, while the cruel father is indulging his inſatiate appetites?

FAMILIES are not only reduced to miſery, but even extirpated by means of intemperance. Nothing tends ſo much to prevent propagation, and to ſhorten the lives of children, as the intemperance of parents. The poor man who labours all day, and at night lies down contented with his humble fare, can boaſt a numerous offspring, while his pampered lord, ſunk in eaſe and luxury, often languiſhes without an heir to his ample fortunes. Even ſtates and empires feel the influence of intemperance, and riſe or fall as it prevails.

INSTEAD of mentioning the different kinds of intemperance, and pointing out their influence upon health, we ſhall only, by way of example, make a few obſervations on one particular ſpecies of that vice, *viz.* the abuſe of intoxicating liquors.

EVERY act of intoxication puts nature to the expence of a fever in order to diſcharge the poiſonous draught. When this is repeated almoſt every day, it is eaſy to foreſee the conſequences. That conſtitution muſt be ſtrong indeed which is able long to hold out under a daily fever! But fevers occaſioned by drinking do not always go off in a day; they frequently end in an inflammation of the breaſt, liver, or brain, and produce fatal effects.

THOUGH the drunkard ſhould not fall by an acute diſeaſe, he ſeldom eſcapes thoſe of a chronic

kind. Intoxicating liquors, when uſed to exceſs, weaken the bowels and ſpoil the digeſtion; they deſtroy the power of the nerves, and occaſion paralytic and convulſive diſorders; they likewiſe heat and inflame the blood, deſtroy its balſamic quality, render it unfit for circulation, and the nouriſhment of the body. Hence obſtructions, atrophies, dropſies, and conſumptions of the lungs. Theſe are the common ways in which drunkards make their exit. Diſeaſes of this kind, when brought on by hard drinking, ſeldom admit of a cure.

MANY people injure their health by drinking, who ſeldom get drunk. The continual habit of ſoaking, as it is called, though its effects be not ſo violent, is not leſs pernicious. When the veſſels are kept conſtantly full and upon the ſtretch, the different digeſtions can neither be duly performed, nor the humours properly prepared. Hence moſt people of this character are afflicted with the gout, the gravel, ulcerous ſores in the legs, &c.; if theſe diſorders do not appear, they are ſeized with low ſpirits, hypochondriacal diſorders, and other ſymptoms of indigeſtion.

CONSUMPTIONS are now ſo common, that it is thought one tenth of the inhabitants of great towns die of that diſeaſe. Hard drinking is no doubt one of the cauſes to which we muſt impute the increaſe of conſumptions. The great quantities of viſcid malt-liquor drank by the common people of England, cannot fail to render the blood ſizy and unfit for circulation; from whence proceed

obſtructions

obſtructions and inflammations of the lungs. There are few great ale-drinkers who are not phthiſical: nor is that to be wondered at, conſidering the glutinous and almoſt indigeſtible nature of ſtrong ale.

Those who drink ardent ſpirits or ſtrong wines run ſtill greater hazard; theſe liquors heat and inflame the blood, and tear the tender veſſels of the lungs in pieces; yet ſo great is the conſumption of them in this country that one would almoſt be induced to think the inhabitants lived upon them *.

The habit of drinking proceeds frequently from misfortunes in life. The miſerable fly to it for relief. It affords them indeed a temporary eaſe. But, alas, this ſolace is ſhort-lived, and when it is over, the ſpirits ſink as much below their natural pitch as they had before been raiſed above it. Hence a repetition of the doſe becomes neceſſary, and every freſh doſe makes way for another, till the unhappy wretch becomes a ſlave to the bottle, and at length falls a ſacrifice to what at firſt perhaps was taken only as a medicine. No man is ſo

* We may form ſome notion of the immenſe quantity of ardent ſpirits conſumed in Great Britain from this circumſtance, that in the city of Edinburgh and its environs, beſides the great quantity of foreign ſpirits duly entered, and the ſtill greater quantity which is ſuppoſed to be ſmuggled, it is computed that above two thouſand private ſtills are conſtantly employed in preparing a poiſonous liquor called *Molaſſes*. The common people have got ſo univerſally into the habit of drinking this baſe ſpirit, that, when a porter or labourer is ſeen reeling along the ſtreets, they ſay, *he has got molaſſed.*—— Surely this merits public attention.

ſo dejected as the drunkard when his débauch is gone off. Hence it is, that thoſe who have the greateſt flow of ſpirits while the glaſs circulates freely, are of all others the moſt melancholy when ſober, and often put an end to their own miſerable exiſtence in a fit of ſpleen or ill humour.

Drunkenness not only proves deſtructive to health, but likewiſe to the faculties of the mind. It is ſtrange that creatures who value themſelves on account of a ſuperior degree of reaſon to that of brutes, ſhould take pleaſure in ſinking ſo far below them. Were ſuch as voluntarily deprive themſelves of the uſe of reaſon, to continue ever after in that condition, it would ſeem but a juſt puniſhment. Though this be not the conſequence of one act of intoxication, it ſeldom fails to ſucceed a courſe of it. By a habit of drinking, the greateſt genius is often reduced to a mere idiot *.

Intoxication

* It is amazing that our improvements in arts, learning, and politeneſs have not put the barbarous cuſtom of drinking to exceſs out of faſhion. It is indeed leſs common in South Britain than it was formerly; but it ſtill prevails very much in the North, where this relick of barbarity is miſtaken for hoſpitality. There no man is ſuppoſed to entertain his gueſts well, who does not make them drunk. Forcing people to drink, is certainly the greateſt piece of rudeneſs that any man can be guilty of. Manlineſs, complaiſance, or mere good nature, may induce a man to take his glaſs, if urged to it at a time when he might as well take poiſon. The cuſtom of drinking to exceſs has long been out of faſhion in France; and, as it begins to loſe ground among the politer part of the Engliſh, we hope it will ſoon be baniſhed from every part of this iſland.

Intoxication is peculiarly hurtful to young perſons. It heats their blood, impairs their ſtrength, and obſtructs their growth; beſides, the frequent uſe of ſtrong liquors in the early part of life deſtroys the good effects of them afterwards. Thoſe who make a practice of drinking generous liquors when young cannot expect to reap any benefit from them as a cordial in the decline of life.

Drunkenness is not only a moſt abominable vice itſelf, but is an inducement to almoſt every other vice. There is hardly any crime ſo horrid that the drunkard will not perpetrate for the love of liquor. We have known mothers ſell their childrens clothes, the food that they ſhould have eat, and afterwards even the children themſelves, in order to purchaſe the accurſed draught *.

* Two women, both notorious drunkards, were executed at Edinburgh ſome years ago, for murdering children, and afterwards ſelling them to the ſurgeons for money to buy liquor.

CHAP.

CHAP. VIII.

OF CLEANLINESS.

THE want of cleanlineſs is a fault which admits of no excuſe. Where water can be had for nothing, it is ſurely in the power of every perſon to be clean. The continual diſcharge from our bodies by perſpiration renders frequent change of apparel neceſſary. Changing apparel greatly promotes the ſecretion from the ſkin, ſo neceſſary for health. When that matter which ought to be carried off by perſpiration, is either retained in the body, or re-abſorbed from dirty clothes, it often occaſions cutaneous diſeaſes, fevers, *&c.*

THE itch, and ſeveral other diſeaſes of the ſkin, are chiefly owing to want of cleanlineſs. They may indeed be caught by infection, or brought on by poor living, unwholeſome food, *&c.*; but they will ſeldom continue long where cleanlineſs prevails. To the ſame cauſe muſt we impute the various kinds of vermin which infeſt the human body, houſes, *&c.* Theſe may always be baniſhed by cleanlineſs alone, and wherever they abound, we have reaſon to believe that it is neglected.

ONE common cauſe of putrid and malignant fevers is the want of cleanlineſs. Theſe fevers commonly begin among the inhabitants of cloſe dirty houſes, who breathe unwholeſome air, take little

little exercise, and wear dirty clothes. There the infection is generally hatched, which often spreads far and wide, to the destruction of many. Hence cleanliness may be considered as an object of public attention. It is not sufficient that I be clean myself, while the want of it in my neighbour affects my health as well as his own. If dirty people cannot be removed as a common nuisance, they ought at least to be avoided as infectious. All who regard their health should keep at a distance even from their habitations.

In places where great numbers of people are collected, cleanliness becomes of the utmost importance. It is well known, that infectious diseases are communicated by tainted air. Every thing therefore which tends to pollute the air, or spread the infection, ought, with the utmost care, to be guarded against. For this reason, in great towns, no filth, of any kind, should be permitted to lie upon the streets. Nothing is more apt to convey infection than the excrements of the diseased. These, in many cases, are known to be highly infectious.

In many great towns the streets are little better than dunghills, being frequently covered with ashes, dung, and nastiness of every kind. Even slaughter-houses, or killing shambles, are often to be seen in the very center of great towns. The putrid blood, excrements, &c. with which these places are generally covered, cannot fail to taint the air and render it unwholesome. How easily might this be prevented by active magistrates, who

have it always in their power to make proper laws relative to things of this nature, and to enforce the obſervance of them?

We are ſorry to ſay, that the importance of general cleanlineſs does by no means ſeem to be ſufficiently underſtood by the magiſtrates of moſt great towns in Britain; though health, pleaſure, and honour, all conſpire to recommend an attention to it. Nothing can be more agreeable to the ſenſes, more to the honour of the inhabitants, or more conducive to their health, than a clean town; nor can any thing impreſs a ſtranger with a more diſreſpectful idea of any people than its oppoſite. Whatever pretenſions people may make to learning, politeneſs, or civilization, we will venture to affirm, that, ſo long as they neglect cleanlineſs, they are in a ſtate of barbarity *.

The peaſants in moſt countries ſeem to hold cleanlineſs in a ſort of contempt. Were it not for the open ſituation of their houſes, they would often feel the bad effects of this diſpoſition. One ſeldom ſees a farm-houſe without a dunghill before the door, and frequently the cattle and their maſters lodge under the ſame roof. Peaſants are likewiſe extremely careleſs with reſpect to change of

* In ancient Rome the greateſt men did not think cleanlineſs an object unworthy of their attention. Pliny ſays, the *Cloacae*, or common gutters for the conveyance of filth and naſtineſs from the city, were the greateſt of all the public works; and beſtows higher encomiums upon Tarquinius, Agrippa, and others who made and improved them, than on thoſe who atchieved the greateſt conqueſts.

of apparel, keeping their houſes, &c. clean. This is merely the effect of indolence and a dirty diſpoſition. Habit may indeed render it leſs diſagreeable to them, but no habit can ever make it ſalutary to wear dirty clothes, or breathe unwholeſome air *.

In camps the ſtricteſt regard ſhould be paid to cleanlineſs. By negligence in this matter, infectious diſeaſes are often ſpread amongſt a whole army; and frequently more die of theſe than by the ſword. The Jews, during their encampments in the wilderneſs, received particular inſtructions with reſpect to cleanlineſs †. The rules enjoined them ought to be obſerved by all in the like ſituation. Indeed the whole ſyſtem of laws delivered to that people has a manifeſt tendency to promote cleanlineſs. Whoever conſiders the nature of their climate,

* As many articles of diet come through the hands of peaſants, every method ſhould be taken to encourage and promote habits of cleanlineſs among them. This, for example, might be done by giving a ſmall premium to the perſon who brings the cleaneſt and beſt article of any kind to market, as butter, cheeſe, &c. and by puniſhing ſeverely thoſe who bring it dirty. The ſame method ſhould be taken with butchers, bakers, brewers, and all who are employed in preparing the neceſſaries of life.

† Thou ſhalt have a place alſo without the camp, whither thou ſhalt go forth abroad; and thou ſhalt have a paddle upon thy weapon: and it ſhall be when thou ſhalt eaſe thyſelf abroad, thou ſhalt dig therewith, and ſhalt turn back, and cover that which cometh from thee, &c.

Deuter. chap. xxiii. ver. 12, 13.

mate, and the diſeaſes to which they were liable, will ſee the propriety of ſuch laws.

It is remarkable, that, in moſt eaſtern countries, cleanlineſs makes a great part of their religion. The Mahometan, as well as the Jewiſh religion, enjoins various bathings, waſhings, and purifications. No doubt theſe were deſigned to repreſent inward purity; but they were at the ſame time calculated for the preſervation of health. However whimſical theſe waſhings may appear to ſome, few things would tend more to prevent diſeaſes than a proper attention to many of them. Were every perſon, for example, after viſiting the ſick, handling a dead body, or the like, to waſh before he went into company, or ſat down to meat, he would run leſs hazard either of catching the infection himſelf, or of communicating it to others.

Frequent waſhing not only removes the filth and ſordes which adhere to the ſkin, but likewiſe promotes the perſpiration, braces the body, and enlivens the ſpirits. How refreſhed, how cheerful, and agreeable does one feel on being ſhaved, waſhed, and ſhifted; eſpecially when theſe offices have been neglected longer than uſual!

The eaſtern cuſtom of waſhing the feet is not only a very agreeable piece of cleanlineſs, but contributes greatly to the preſervation of health. The ſweat and dirt with which theſe parts are frequently covered, cannot fail to obſtruct the perſpiration. This piece of cleanlineſs would often prevent colds and fevers. Were people careful to bathe their feet and legs in luke-warm water at

night, after being expoſed to cold or wet through the day, they would ſeldom experience the ill effects which often proceed from theſe cauſes.

A proper attention to cleanlineſs is no where more neceſſary than on ſhipboard. If epidemical diſtempers break out there, no one can be ſafe. The beſt way to prevent them is to take care that the whole company be cleanly in their clothes, bedding, &c. When infectious diſeaſes do break out, cleanlineſs is the moſt likely means to prevent their ſpreading: It is likewiſe neceſſary to prevent their returning afterwards, or being conveyed to other places. For this purpoſe, the clothes, bedding, &c. of the ſick ought to be carefully waſhed, and fumigated with brimſtone. Infection will lodge a long time in dirty clothes, and afterwards break out in the moſt terrible manner.

In places where great numbers of ſick people are kept, cleanlineſs ought to be moſt religiouſly obſerved *. The very ſmell in ſuch places is often ſufficient

* As it is impoſſible to be thoroughly clean without a ſufficient quantity of water, we would earneſtly recommend it to the magiſtrates of great towns to be particularly attentive to this article. Moſt great towns in Britain are ſo ſituated as to be eaſily ſupplied with water; and thoſe perſons who will not make a proper uſe of it, after it is brought to their hand, certainly deſerve to be ſeverely puniſhed. The ſtreets of great towns, where water can be had, ought to be waſhed every day. This is the only effectual method for keeping them thoroughly clean; and, upon trial, we are perſuaded, it will be found the cheapeſt.

ſufficient to make one ſick. It is eaſy to imagine what effect that is likely to have upon the diſeaſed. In an hoſpital or infirmary, where cleanlineſs is neglected, a perſon in perfect health has a greater chance to become ſick, than a ſick perſon has to get well.

Few things are more unaccountable than that neglect, or rather dread of cleanlineſs which appears among thoſe who have the care of the ſick; they think it almoſt criminal to ſuffer any thing that is clean to come near a perſon in a fever, for example, and would rather allow him to wallow in all manner of filth than change the leaſt bit of his linen, &c. If cleanlineſs be neceſſary for perſons in health, it is certainly more ſo for the ſick. Many diſeaſes may be cured by cleanlineſs alone; moſt of them might be mitigated by it; and, where it is neglected, the ſlighteſt diſorders are often changed into the moſt malignant. The ſame miſtaken care which prompted people to prevent the leaſt admiſſion of freſh air to the ſick, ſeems likewiſe to have induced them to keep them dirty. Both theſe deſtructive prejudices will, we hope, be ſoon entirely exploded.

Cleanliness is certainly agreeable to our nature. We cannot help approving it in others, even though we ſhould not practice it ourſelves. It ſooner attracts our regard than even finery itſelf, and often gains eſteem where that fails. It is an ornament to the higheſt as well as the loweſt ſtation, and cannot be diſpenſed with in either.

Few

Few virtues are of more importance to ſociety than real cleanlineſs. It ought to be carefully cultivated every where; but, in popular cities, it ſhould be almoſt revered.

We cannot conclude this article, without recommending the practice of cleanlineſs, in the warmeſt manner, to perſons in every ſituation of life. We do not indeed pretend to rank it among the *cardinal virtues*; but we would recommend it as neceſſary for ſupporting the honour and dignity of human nature, as agreeable and uſeful to ſociety, and as highly conducive to the preſervation of health.

CHAP. IX.

OF INFECTION.

MOST diſeaſes are infectious. Every perſon ought therefore, as far as he can, to avoid all communication with the diſeaſed. The common practice of viſiting the ſick, though often well meant, has many ill conſequences. Far be it from us to diſcourage any act of charity or benevolence, eſpecially towards thoſe in diſtreſs; but we cannot help blaming ſuch as endanger their own or their neighbours lives by a miſtaken friendſhip, or an impertinent curioſity.

THE houſes of the ſick, eſpecially in the country, are generally crowded from morning till night with idle viſitors. It is cuſtomary, in ſuch places, for ſervants and young people to wait upon the ſick by turns, and even to ſit up with them all night. It would be a miracle indeed ſhould ſuch always eſcape. Experience teaches us the danger of this conduct. People often catch fevers in this way, and communicate them to others, till at length they become epidemic.

IT would be thought highly improper, for one who had not had the ſmall-pox, to wait upon a patient in that diſeaſe; yet many other fevers are almoſt as infectious as the ſmall-pox, and not leſs fatal. Some imagine, that fevers prove more fatal in vil-

lage

lages than in great towns, for want of proper medical aſſiſtance. This may ſometimes be the caſe; but we are inclined to think, it oftener proceeds from the cauſe above mentioned.

Were a plan to be laid down for communicating infection, it could not be done more effectually than by the common method of viſiting the ſick. Such viſitors not only endanger themſelves and their connections, but likewiſe hurt the ſick. By crowding the houſe, they render the air unwholeſome, and by their private whiſpers and diſmal countenances, diſturb the imagination of the patient, and depreſs his ſpirits. Perſons who are ill, eſpecially in fevers, ought to be kept as quiet as poſſible. The ſight of ſtrange faces, and every thing that diſturbs the mind, hurts them.

The common practice in country-places of inviting great numbers of people to funerals, and crowding them into the ſame apartment where the corps lies, is another way of ſpreading infection. The infection does not always die with the patient. In many caſes it rather grows ſtronger as the body becomes putrid. This is peculiarly the caſe of thoſe who die of malignant fevers, or other putrid diſeaſes. Such ought not to lie long unburied; and people ſhould keep, as much as poſſible, at a diſtance from them.

It would tend greatly to prevent the ſpreading of infectious diſeaſes, if thoſe in health were kept at a proper diſtance from the ſick. The Jewiſh Legiſlator, among many other wiſe inſtitutions

for preſerving health, has been peculiarly attentive to the means of preventing infection, or *defilement* as it is called, either from a diſeaſed perſon or a dead body. In many caſes the diſeaſed were to be ſeparated from thoſe in health; and it was deemed a crime even to approach their habitations. If a perſon only touched a diſeaſed or dead body, he was appointed to waſh himſelf in water, and to keep for ſome time at a diſtance from ſociety.

Infectious diſeaſes are often communicated by clothes. It is extremely dangerous to wear apparel which has been worn by the diſeaſed, unleſs it has been well waſhed and fumigated, *&c.* as infection may lodge a long time in it, and afterward produce very tragical effects. This ſhews the danger of buying at random the clothes which have been uſed by other people.

Infectious diſorders are frequently imported. Commerce, together with the riches of foreign climes, brings us alſo their diſeaſes. Theſe often more than counterbalance all the advantages of that trade by means of which they are introduced. It is to be regretted, that ſo little care is commonly taken, either to prevent the introduction or ſpreading of infectious diſeaſes. Some attention indeed is generally paid to the plague; but other diſeaſes paſs unregarded *.

Infectio

* Were the tenth part of the care taken to prevent the importation of diſeaſes that there is to prevent ſmuggling, it would be attended with many happy conſequences. The mig

INFECTION is often ſpread in cities by jails, hoſpitals, &c. Theſe are frequently ſituated in the very middle of populous towns; and when infectious diſeaſes break out in them, it is impoſſible for the inhabitants to eſcape. Did magiſtrates pay any regard to the health of the people, this evil might be eaſily remedied.

MANY are the cauſes which tend to diffuſe infection through populous cities. The whole atmoſphere of a large town is one contaminated maſs, abounding with every kind of infection, and muſt be pernicious to health. The beſt advice that we can give to ſuch as are obliged to live in large cities, is, to chuſe an open ſituation; to avoid narrow, dirty, crowded ſtreets; to keep their own houſes and offices clean; and to be as much abroad in the open air as their time will permit.

IT would tend greatly to prevent the ſpreading of infectious diſeaſes, were proper nurſes every where employed to take care of the ſick. This

might eaſily be done by appointing a phyſician at every conſiderable ſea port, to inſpect the ſhip's company, paſſengers, &c. before they came aſhore, and, if any fever or other infectious diſorder prevailed, to order the ſhip to perform a ſhort quarantine, and to ſend the ſick to ſome hoſpital or proper place to be cured. He might likewiſe order all the clothes, bedding, &c. which had been uſed by the ſick during the voyage to be either deſtroyed or thoroughly cleanſed by fumigation, &c. before any of it were ſent aſhore. A ſcheme of this kind, if properly conducted, would prevent many fevers, and other infectious diſeaſes, from being brought by ſailors into ſea-port towns, and by this means diffuſed all over the country.

might often ſave a family, or even a whole town, from being infected by one perſon. We do not mean that people ſhould abandon their friends or relations in diſtreſs, but only to put them on their guard againſt being too much in company with thoſe who are afflicted with diſeaſes of an infectious nature.

Such as wait upon the ſick in infectious diſeaſes, run very great hazard. They ought to ſtuff their noſes with tobacco, or ſome other ſtrong ſmelling herb, as rue, tanſy, or the like. They ought likewiſe to keep the patient very clean, and frequently to ſprinkle the room where he lies with vinegar, or other ſtrong acids; and to avoid the ſmell of his breath as much as they can. Such perſons as attend the ſick ought never to go into company without having changed their clothes, waſhed their hands and face, *&c.* otherwiſe, if the diſeaſe be infectious, they will, in all probability, carry the contagion along with them *.

However,

* There is reaſon to believe that infection is often conveyed from one place to another by the careleſſneſs of the faculty themſelves. Many phyſicians affect a familiar way of ſitting upon the patient's bedſide, and holding his arm for a conſiderable time. If the patient has the ſmall-pox, or any other infectious diſeaſe, there is no doubt but the doctor's hands, clothes, *&c.* will carry away ſome of the infection; and, if he goes directly to viſit another patient without waſhing his hands, changing his clothes, or being expoſed to the open air, which is not ſeldom the caſe, is it any wonder that he ſhould carry the diſeaſe along with him? Phyſicians not only endanger others, but alſo themſelves, by

However trifling it may appear to inconſiderate perſons, we will venture to affirm, that a due attention to thoſe things which tend to diffuſe infection would be of ſome importance in preventing diſeaſes. There are many diſeaſes which are in ſome degree infectious: For this reaſon, no one ſhould continue long with the ſick, except the neceſſary attendants. I mean not, however, by this caution, to deter thoſe whoſe duty or office leads them to wait upon the ſick, from ſuch a laudable and neceſſary employment.

Many things are in the power of the magiſtrate which would tend to prevent the ſpreading of infection; as the promoting of public cleanlineſs; removing jails, hoſpitals, church-yards, and other places where infection may be generated, at a proper diſtance from great towns; widening the ſtreets; pulling down uſeleſs walls, and taking all methods to promote a free circulation of air thro' every part of the town, &c. Public hoſpitals, or proper places of reception for the ſick, provided they were kept clean, well ventilated, and placed in an open ſituation, would likewiſe tend to prevent the ſpreading of infection. Such places of reception would prevent the poor, when ſick, from being viſited by their idle or officious neighbours. They would likewiſe render it unneceſſary for ſick ſervants to be kept in their maſters houſes. Maſters had better pay for having their ſervants

by this practice. And, indeed, ſometimes they ſuffer for their want of care.

taken care of in an hoſpital, than run the haza of having an infectious diſeaſe diffuſed among numerous family. Sick ſervants and poor peop when placed in hoſpitals, are not only leſs apt diffuſe infection among their neighbours, but ha likewiſe the advantage of being well attended.

We are not, however, to learn that hoſpita inſtead of preventing infection, may become t means of diffuſing it. When they are placed the middle of great towns; when numbers patients are crowded together into ſmall apai ments; and when cleanlineſs and ventilation a neglected, they become neſts for hatching diſeaſ and every one who goes into them not only runs riſk of receiving infection himſelf, but likewiſe communicating it to others. This, however, not the fault of the hoſpitals, but of thoſe wl have the management of them. It were to l wiſhed, that they were both more numerous, ar upon a more reſpectable footing, as that would i duce people to go into them with leſs reluctanc This is the more to be deſired, becauſe moſt of th putrid fevers and other infectious diſorders brea out among the poor, and are by them commun cated to the better ſort. Were proper attentio paid to the firſt appearances of ſuch diſorders, an the patients early conveyed to an hoſpital, w ſhould ſeldom ſee a putrid fever, which is almo as infectious as the plague, become epidemic.

CHAP. X.

OF THE PASSIONS.

THE paſſions have great influence both in the cauſe and cure of diſeaſes. How mind acts upon matter, will, in all probability, ever remain a ſecret. It is ſufficient for us to know, that there is eſtabliſhed a reciprocal influence betwixt the mental and corporeal parts, and that whatever diſorders the one, likewiſe effects the other.

THE paſſion of *anger* ruffles the mind, diſtorts the countenance, hurries on the circulation of the blood, and diſorders the whole vital and animal functions. It often occaſions fevers, and other acute diſeaſes; and ſometimes even ſudden death. This paſſion is peculiarly hurtful to the delicate, and thoſe of weak nerves. I have known a hyſteric woman loſe her life by a violent fit of anger; all ſuch ought to guard againſt the exceſs of this paſſion with the utmoſt care. Of anger.

IT is not indeed always in our power to prevent being angry; but we may ſurely avoid harbouring reſentment in our breaſt. Reſentment preys upon the mind, and occaſions the moſt obſtinate chronical diſorders, which gradually waſte the conſtitution. Nothing ſhews true greatneſs of mind more than to forgive injuries: It promotes the

peace

peace of ſociety, and greatly conduces to our own eaſe, health, and felicity.

SUCH as value health ſhould avoid violent guſts of anger, as they would the moſt deadly poiſon. Neither ought they to indulge reſentment, but to endeavour at all times to keep their minds calm and ſerene. Nothing tends ſo much to the health of the body as a conſtant tranquillity of mind.

Of fear. THE influence of *fear*, both in occaſioning and aggravating diſeaſes, is very great. No man ought to be blamed for a decent concern about life; but too great a deſire to preſerve it, is often the cauſe of loſing it. Fear and anxiety, by depreſſing the ſpirits, not only diſpoſe us to diſeaſes, but often render thoſe diſeaſes fatal which an undaunted mind would overcome.

SUDDEN fear has generally violent effects. Epilectic fits, and other convulſive diſorders, are often occaſioned by it. Hence the danger of that practice, ſo common among young people, of frightening one another. Many have loſt their lives, and others have been rendered uſeleſs ever after, by frolics of this kind. It is dangerous to tamper with the human paſſions. They may eaſily be thrown into ſuch diſorder as never again to act with regularity.

BUT the gradual effects of fear prove more generally hurtful. The conſtant dread of ſome future evil, by dwelling upon the mind, often occaſions the very evil itſelf. Hence it comes to

paſs, that ſo many die of theſe very diſeaſes of which they long had a dread, or, which had been impreſſed on their minds by ſome accident, or fooliſh prediction. This, for example, is often the caſe with women in childbed. Many of thoſe who die in that ſituation are impreſſed with the notion of their death a long time before it happens; and there is reaſon to believe, that this impreſſion is often the cauſe of it.

The methods taken to impreſs the minds of women with apprehenſions of the great *pain* and *peril* of child-birth are very hurtful. Few women die in labour, though many loſe their lives after it; which may be thus accounted for. A woman after delivery, finding herſelf weak and exhauſted, immediately apprehends ſhe is in danger; but this fear ſeldom fails to obſtruct the neceſſary evacuations upon which her recovery depends. Thus the ſex often fall a ſacrifice to their own imaginations, when there would be no danger, did they apprehend none.

It ſeldom happens that two or three women, in a great town, die in child-bed, but their death is followed by many others. Every woman of their acquaintance, who is with child, dreads the ſame fate, and the diſeaſe becomes epidemical by the mere force of imagination. This ſhould induce pregnant women to deſpiſe fear, and by all means to avoid thoſe tattling goſſips who are continually buzzing in their ears the misfortunes of others. Every thing that may in the leaſt alarm a pregnant,

or

or child-bed woman, ought with the greateſt care to be guarded againſt.

Many women have loſt their lives in child-bed by the old ſuperſtitious cuſtom, ſtill kept up in moſt parts of Britain, of tolling the pariſh bell for every perſon who dies. People who think themſelves in danger are very inquiſitive; and if they come to know that the bell tolls for one who died in the ſame ſituation with themſelves, what muſt be the conſequence? At any rate, they are apt to ſuppoſe that this is the caſe, and it will often be found a very difficult taſk to perſuade them of the contrary.

But this cuſtom is not pernicious to childbed-women only. It is hurtful in many other caſes. When low fevers, in which it is difficult to ſupport the patient's ſpirits, prevail, what muſt be the effect of a funeral-peal ſounding five or ſix times a day in his ears? No doubt his imagination will ſuggeſt, that others died of the ſame diſeaſe under which he labours. This apprehenſion will have a greater tendency to depreſs his ſpirits, than all the cordials of which medicine can boaſt will have to raiſe them.

If this uſeleſs piece of ceremony cannot be aboliſhed, we ought to keep the ſick as much from hearing it as poſſible, and from every thing elſe that may tend to alarm them. So far however is this from being generally attended to, that many make it their buſineſs to viſit the ſick, on purpoſe to whiſper diſmal ſtories in their ears.

Such

Such may paſs for ſympathizing friends, but they ought rather to be conſidered as enemies. All who wiſh well to the ſick, ought to keep ſuch perſons at the greateſt diſtance from them.

A cuſtom has long prevailed among phyſicians, of prognoſticating, as they call it, the patient's fate, or foretelling the iſſue of the diſeaſe. Vanity no doubt introduced this practice, and ſtill ſupports it, in ſpite of common ſenſe and the ſafety of the ſick. I have known a phyſician barbarous enough to boaſt, that he pronounced more *ſentences* than all his Majeſty's judges. Would to God that ſuch ſentences were not often equally fatal! It may indeed be alledged, that the doctor does not declare his opinion before the patient. So much the worſe. A ſenſible patient had better hear what the doctor ſays than learn it from the diſconſolate looks, the watery eyes, and the broken whiſpers of thoſe about him. It ſeldom happens, when the doctor gives an unfavourable opinion, that it can be concealed from the patient. The very embaraſſment which the friends and attendants ſhew in diſguiſing what he has ſaid, is generally ſufficient to diſcover the truth.

We do not ſee what right any man has to announce the death of another, eſpecially if ſuch a declaration has a chance to kill him. Mankind are indeed very fond of prying into future events, and ſeldom fail to importune the phyſician for his opinion. A doubtful anſwer, however, or one that

that may tend rather to encourage the hopes of the ſick, is ſurely the moſt ſafe. This conduct could neither hurt the patient nor the phyſician. Nothing tends more to deſtroy the credit of phyſic than thoſe bold prognoſticators, who, by the bye, are generally the moſt ignorant of the faculty. The miſtakes which daily happen in this way are ſo many ſtanding proofs of human vanity, and the weakneſs of ſcience *.

THE vanity of foretelling the fate of the ſick is not peculiar to the Faculty. Others follow their example, and thoſe who think themſelves wiſer than their neighbours often do much hurt in this way. Humanity ſurely calls upon every one to comfort the ſick, and not to add to their affliction by alarming their fears. A friend, or even a phyſician, may often do more good by a mild and ſympathizing behaviour than by medicine, and ſhould never neglect to adminiſter that greateſt of all cordials, HOPE.

* Nothing can be more ridiculous, not to ſay abſurd, than this piece of medical practice. It may often do miſchief, but can ſeldom have any good effects; beſides, it can never be reduced to any degree of certainty, unleſs in a few caſes, which are obvious to moſt people. Notwithſtanding this, many phyſicians, and ſome of eminence too, value themſelves ſo much upon their ſkill in *prognoſtication*, that they ſeem very much diſappointed, nay chagrined, when any one of their patients is ſo happy as to ſurvive their ſentence. Such gentlemen muſt excuſe me for telling them that they very often, and indeed too juſtly, render themſelves the objects of laughter, to thoſe very perſons whoſe day and hour they had fixed many years ago.

Of Grief.

GRIEF is the moſt deſtructive of all the paſſions. Its effects are permanent, and when it ſinks deep into the mind, it generally proves fatal. Anger and fear being of a more violent nature, ſeldom laſt long; but grief often changes into a fixed melancholy, which preys upon the ſpirits, and waſtes the conſtitution. This paſſion ought not to be indulged. It may generally be conquered at the beginning; but, when it has gained ſtrength, all attempts to remove it are vain.

No perſon can prevent misfortunes in life; but it ſhews true greatneſs of mind to bear them with ſerenity. Many perſons make a merit of indulging grief, and, when misfortunes happen, they obſtinately refuſe all conſolation, till the mind, overwhelmed with melancholy, ſinks under the load. Such conduct is not only deſtructive to health, but inconſiſtent with reaſon, religion, and common ſenſe.

CHANGE of ideas is as neceſſary for health as change of poſture. When the mind dwells long upon one ſubject, eſpecially of a diſagreeable nature, it hurts the whole functions of the body. Hence grief indulged deſtroys the appetite and ſpoils the digeſtion; by which means the ſpirits are depreſſed, the nerves relaxed, the bowels inflated with wind, and the humours, for want of freſh ſupplies of chyle, vitiated. Thus many an excellent conſtitution has been ruined by a family-misfortune, or any thing that occaſioned exceſſive grief.

It is utterly impoſſible, that any perſon of a dejected mind ſhould enjoy health. Life may indeed be dragged out for a few years: But, whoever would live to a good old age, muſt be good-humoured and cheerful. This indeed is not altogether in our own power; yet our temper of mind, as well as actions, depends greatly upon ourſelves. We can either aſſociate with cheerful or melancholy companions, mingle in the amuſements and offices of life, or ſit ſtill and brood over our calamities, as we chuſe. Theſe, and many ſuch things, are certainly in our power, and from theſe the mind generally takes its caſt.

The variety of ſcenes which preſent themſelves to the ſenſes, were certainly deſigned to prevent our attention from being too long fixed upon any one object. Nature abounds with variety, and the mind, unleſs fixed down by habit, delights in contemplating new objects. This at once points out the method of relieving the mind in diſtreſs. Turn the attention frequently to new objects. Examine them for ſome time. When the mind begins to recoil, ſhift the ſcene. By this means a conſtant ſucceſſion of new ideas may be kept up, till the diſagreeable ones entirely diſappear. Thus travelling, the ſtudy of any art or ſcience, reading or writing on ſuch ſubjects as deeply engage the attention, will ſooner expel grief than the moſt ſprightly amuſements.

It has already been obſerved, that the body cannot be healthy unleſs it be exerciſed; neither

can the mind. Indolence nouriſhes grief. When the mind has nothing elſe to think of but calamities, no wonder that it dwells there. Few people who purſue buſineſs with attention are hurt by grief. Inſtead therefore of abſtracting ourſelves from the world or buſineſs, when misfortunes happen, we ought to engage in it with more than uſual attention, to diſcharge with double diligence the functions of our ſtation, and to mix with friends of a cheerful and ſocial temper.

Innocent amuſements are by no means to be neglected. Theſe, by leading the mind inſenſibly to the contemplation of agreeable objects, help to diſpel the gloom which misfortunes caſt over it. They make time ſeem leſs tedious, and have many other happy effects.

Many, when overwhelmed with grief, betake themſelves to drinking. This is making the cure worſe than the diſeaſe. It ſeldom fails to end in the ruin of fortune, character, and conſtitution.

Love is perhaps the ſtrongeſt of all the paſſions; at leaſt, when it becomes violent, it is leſs ſubject to the controul either of the underſtanding or will, than any of the reſt. Fear, anger, and ſeveral other paſſions are neceſſary for the preſervation of the individual, but love is neceſſary for the continuation of the ſpecies itſelf: It was therefore proper that this paſſion ſhould be deeply rooted in the human breaſt. Of Love.

THOUGH love be a ſtrong paſſion, it is ſeldom ſo rapid in its progreſs as ſeveral of the others. Few perſons fall deſperately in love all at once. We would therefore adviſe every one, before he tampers with this paſſion, to conſider well the probability of his being able to obtain the object of his love. When that is not likely, he ſhould avoid every occaſion of increaſing it. He ought immediately to fly the company of the beloved object; to apply his mind attentively to buſineſs or ſtudy; to take every kind of amuſement; and, above all, to endeavour, if poſſible, to find another object which may engage his affections, and which it may be in his power to obtain.

WHEN love becomes a diſeaſe, it is not eaſily cured. Its conſequences, in this caſe, are often ſo violent, that even the poſſeſſion of the beloved object will not always remove them. It is therefore of the greateſt importance early to guard againſt its influence: but when the paſſion has already taken too deep hold of the mind to admit of being eradicated, the beloved object ought, if poſſible, to be obtained; nor ſhould this be deferred for every trifling cauſe. Thoſe who have the diſpoſal of young perſons in marriage are too ready to trifle with the paſſion of love; ſuch, for the moſt ſordid conſiderations, frequently ſacrifice the future health, peace or happineſs of thoſe committed to their care *.

MANY

* Even the conduct of parents themſelves in the diſpoſal of their children in marriage is often very blameable. An advantageous

Of religious Melancholy.

MANY perſons of a religious turn of mind behave as if they thought it a crime to be cheerful. They imagine the whole of religion conſiſts in certain mortifications, or denying themſelves the ſmalleſt indulgence, even of the moſt innocent amuſements. A perpetual gloom hangs upon their countenances, while the deepeſt melancholy preys upon their minds. At length the faireſt proſpects vaniſh, every thing puts on a diſmal appearance, and thoſe very objects which ought to give delight afford nothing but diſguſt. Life itſelf becomes a burden, and the unhappy wretch, perſuaded that no evil can equal what he feels, often puts an end to his own miſerable exiſtence.

IT is great pity that ever religion ſhould be ſo far perverted, as to become the cauſe of thoſe very evils which it was deſigned to cure. Nothing can be better calculated than the *Chriſtian Religion*, to raiſe and ſupport the mind of its votaries under every affliction that can befal them. It teaches them that the ſufferings of this life are preparatory to the happineſs of the next; and that all who perſiſt in a courſe of virtue, ſhall at length arrive at complete felicity.

vantageous match is the conſtant aim of parents; while their children often ſuffer a real martyrdom betwixt their own inclinations and the duty which they think they owe to their parents. The firſt thing which parents ought to conſult, in diſpoſing of their children in marriage, is certainly their own inclinations. Were due regard always paid to theſe, there would be fewer unhappy couples; and parents would not have ſo often cauſe to repent the ſeverity of their conduct, after a ruined conſtitution, or a diſtracted mind, has ſhewn them their miſtake.

Those whose business it is to recommend religion to others, should beware of dwelling too much upon gloomy subjects. That peace and tranquillity of mind, which true religion is calculated to inspire, is a more powerful argument in its favour, than all the terrors that can be uttered. Terror may indeed deter men from outward acts of wickedness; but it will never inspire them with that love of God and real goodness, in which alone true religion consists.

To conclude, the best way to counteract the violence of any passion, is to encourage those of an opposite nature, and to keep the mind so closely engaged in some useful pursuit, as to allow it no time to reflect upon misfortunes.

CHAP.

CHAP. XI.

OF THE CUSTOMARY EVACUATIONS.

THE principal evacuations from the human body are thoſe of *ſtool*, *urine*, and *inſenſible perſpiration*. None of theſe can be long obſtructed without impairing the health. When that which ought to be thrown out of the body is too long retained, it not only occaſions a *plethora*, or too great fulneſs of the veſſels, but acquires qualities which are hurtful to the health, as acrimony, putreſcence, &c.

Of the evacuation by ſtool.

FEW things conduce more to health than keeping the belly regular. When the *fæces* lie too long in the body they vitiate the humours, and when they are too ſoon diſcharged it is not ſufficiently nouriſhed. A medium is therefore to be deſired; which can only be obtained by regularity in diet, ſleep and exerciſe. Whenever the belly is not regular, there is reaſon to ſuſpect a fault in one or other of theſe.

PERSONS who eat and drink at irregular hours, and who eat various kinds of food, and drink of ſeveral different liquors at every meal, have no reaſon to expect either that their digeſtion will be good, or their diſcharges regular. Irregularity in eating and drinking diſturbs every part of the animal œconomy, and never fails to occaſion diſ-

eaſes. Either too much or too little food will have this effect. The former indeed generally occaſions looſeneſs, and the latter coſtiveneſs; but both have a tendency to hurt the health.

It would be difficult to aſcertain the exact number of ſtools which may be conſiſtent with health, as theſe differ in the different periods of life, in different conſtitutions, and even in the ſame conſtitution under a different regimen of diet, exerciſe, *&c.* It is however generally allowed, that one ſtool a day is ſufficient for an adult, and that leſs is hurtful. But this, like moſt general rules, admits of many exceptions. I have known perſons in perfect health who did not go to ſtool above once a week. Such a degree of coſtiveneſs however is not ſafe; though the perſon who labours under it may for ſome time enjoy tolerable health, yet at length it will occaſion diſeaſes.

One method for procuring a ſtool every day is to riſe betimes, and go abroad in the open air. Not only the poſture in bed is unfavourable to regular ſtools, but alſo the warmth. This by promoting the perſpiration leſſens all the other diſcharges.

The method recommended for this purpoſe, by Mr. Lock is likewiſe very proper, *viz. to ſolicit nature by going regularly to ſtool every morning whether one has a call or not.* Habits of this kind may be acquired, which will in time become natural.

Persons who have frequent recourſe to medicines for preventing coſtiveneſs, ſeldom fail to ruin their

their conſtitution. Purging medicines frequently repeated weaken the bowels, hurt the digeſtion, and every doſe makes way for another, till at length they become as neceſſary as daily bread. Thoſe who are troubled with coſtiveneſs ought rather, if poſſible, to remove it by diet than drugs. They ought likewiſe to go thinly clothed, and to avoid every thing of an aſtringent, or of a heating nature. The diet and other regimen neceſſary in this caſe will be found under the article *coſtiveneſs*, where this ſtate of the bowels is treated as a diſeaſe.

Such perſons as are troubled with a habitual looſeneſs, ought likewiſe to ſuit their diet, *&c.* to the nature of their complaint. They ſhould uſe food which braces and ſtrengthens the bowels, and which is rather of an aſtringent quality, as wheat-bread made of the fineſt flower, cheeſe, eggs, rice boiled in milk, *&c.* Their drink ſhould be red port-wine, claret, brandy and water, water in which toaſted bread has been boiled, and ſuch like.

As a habitual looſeneſs is often owing to an obſtructed perſpiration, perſons affected with it ought to keep their feet warm, to wear flannel next their ſkin, and to take every other method to promote the perſpiration. Further directions with regard to the treatment of this complaint will be found under the article *Looſeneſs*.

So many things tend to change both the quantity and appearances of the urine, that it is very difficult to lay down any determined rules for Of Urine.

judging of either *. Dr. Cheyne ſays, the urine ought to be equal to three-fourths of the liquid part of our aliment. But ſuppoſe any one were to take the trouble of meaſuring both, he would find that every thing which altered the degree of perſpiration would alter this proportion, and likewiſe that different kinds of aliment would afford very different quantities of urine. Though for theſe, and other reaſons, no rule can be given for judging of the preciſe quantity of urine which ought to be diſcharged, yet a perſon of common ſenſe will ſeldom be at a loſs to know when it is in either extreme.

As a free diſcharge of urine not only prevents but actually cures many diſeaſes, it ought by all means to be promoted; and every thing that may obſtruct it ſhould be carefully avoided. Both the ſecretion and diſcharge of urine are leſſened by a

* It has long been an obſervation among phyſicians, that the appearances of the urine are very uncertain and very little to be depended on. No one will be ſurpriſed at this who conſiders how many ways it may be affected and conſequently have its appearance altered. The paſſions, the ſtate of the atmoſphere, the quantity and quality of the food, the exerciſe, the clothing, the ſtate of the other evacuations, and numberleſs other cauſes, are ſufficient to induce a change either in the quantity or appearance of the urine. Any one who attends to this, will be aſtoniſhed at the impudence of thoſe daring quacks, who pretend to find out diſeaſes and preſcribe to patients from the bare inſpection of their urine. Theſe impoſtures however are very common all over Britain, and by the amazing credulity of the populace, many of them amaſs conſiderable fortunes.

ſedentary

ſedentary life, ſleeping on beds that are too ſoft and warm, food of a dry and heating quality, liquors which are aſtringent and heating, as red port-wine, claret and ſuch like. Thoſe who have reaſon to ſuſpect that their urine is in too ſmall quantity, or who have any ſymptoms of the gravel, ought not only to avoid theſe things, but whatever elſe they find has a tendency to leſſen the quantity of their urine.

When the urine is too long retained, it is not only re-abſorbed, or taken up again into the maſs of fluids, but by ſtagnating in the bladder it becomes thicker, the more watery parts flying off firſt, and the more groſs and earthy remaining behind. By the conſtant tendency which theſe have to concrete, the formation of ſtones and gravel in the bladder is promoted. Hence it comes to paſs, that indolent and ſedentary people are much more liable to theſe diſeaſes, than perſons of a more active life.

Many perſons have loſt their lives, and others have brought on very diſagreeable, and even incurable diſorders, by retaining their urine too long, from a falſe delicacy. When the bladder has been over-diſtended it often loſes its power of action altogether, or becomes paralytic, by which means it is rendered unable either to retain the urine or expel it properly. The calls of nature ought never to be poſtponed. Delicacy is doubtleſs a virtue; but that can never be reckoned true

delicacy

delicacy which induces any one to riſk his health or hazard his life.

But the urine may be in too great as well as too ſmall a quantity. This may be occaſioned by drinking large quantities of weak watery liquors, by the exceſſive uſe of alkaline ſalts, or any thing that ſtimulates the kidnies, or diſſolves the blood, &c. This diſorder very ſoon weakens the body, and induces a conſumption. It is difficult to cure, but may be mitigated by ſtrengthening diet and aſtringent medicines, ſuch as are recommended under the article Diabetes, or exceſſive diſcharge of urine.

Of the perſpiration.

Insensible perſpiration is generally reckoned the greateſt of all the diſcharges from the human body. It is of ſo great importance to health, that few diſeaſes attack us while it goes properly on; but when it is obſtructed the whole frame is generally diſordered. This diſcharge however being leſs perceptible than any of the reſt, is conſequently leſs attended to. Hence it is, that acute fevers, rheumatiſms, agues, &c. often proceed from this cauſe before we are aware of its exiſtence.

It is a true ſaying, that colds kill more than plagues. On examining patients we find moſt of them impute their diſeaſes either to violent colds, which they had caught, or to ſlight ones which had been neglected. For this reaſon, inſtead of a critical inquiry into the nature of the perſpiration, its difference in different ſeaſons, climates, conſtitutions,

tions, &c. we ſhall endeavour to point out the cauſes which moſt commonly obſtruct it, and to ſhew how far they may be either avoided, or have their influence counteracted by timely care. The want of a proper attention to theſe coſts Britain annually ſome thouſands of uſeful lives.

Changes in the atmoſphere.

One of the moſt common cauſes of obſtructed perſpiration, or catching cold, in this country, is the changeableneſs of the weather, or ſtate of the atmoſphere. There is no place where ſuch changes happen more frequently than in Great Britain. With us the degrees of heat and cold are not only very different in the different ſeaſons of the year, but often change almoſt from one extreme to another in a few days, and ſometimes even in the courſe of one day. That ſuch changes muſt affect the ſtate of the perſpiration is obvious to every one.

The beſt method of fortifying the body againſt the changes of the weather is to be abroad every day. Thoſe who keep moſt within doors are moſt liable to catch cold. Such perſons generally render themſelves ſo delicate as to feel even the ſlighteſt changes in the atmoſphere, and by their pains, coughs, and oppreſſions of the breaſt, &c. they become a kind of living barometers.

Wet clothes.

Wet clothes not only, by their coldneſs, obſtruct the perſpiration, but their moiſture, by being abſorbed, or taken up into the body, greatly increaſes the danger. The moſt robuſt conſtitution is not proof againſt the danger ariſing from

wet

wet clothes; they daily occaſion fevers, rheumatiſms, and other fatal diſorders, even in the young and healthy.

It is impoſſible for people who go frequently abroad to avoid ſometimes being wet. But the danger might generally be leſſened, if not wholly prevented, by changing their clothes ſoon; when this cannot be done, they ſhould keep in motion till they be dry. So far are many people from taking this precaution, that they often ſit or lie down in the fields with their clothes wet, and frequently even ſleep whole nights in this condition. The frequent inſtances which we have of the fatal effects of this conduct ought certainly to deter others from being guilty of it.

Wet feet. Even wet feet often occaſion fatal diſeaſes. The cholic, inflammations of the breaſt, the iliac paſſion, and *cholera morbus*, &c. are often occaſioned by wet feet. Habit will, no doubt, render this leſs dangerous; but it ought, as far as poſſible, to be avoided. The delicate, and thoſe who are not accuſtomed to have their clothes or feet wet, ſhould be peculiarly careful in this reſpect.

Night air. The perſpiration is often obſtructed by night-air; even in ſummer, this ought to be avoided. The dews, which fall plentifully after the hotteſt day, make the night more dangerous than when the weather is cool. Hence, in warm countries, the evening dews are more hurtful than where the climate is more temperate.

It

It is very agreeable after a warm day, to be abroad in the cool evening; but this is a pleaſure to be avoided by all who value their health. The effects of evening-dews are gradual indeed, and almoſt imperceptible; but they are not the leſs to be dreaded: We would therefore adviſe travellers, labourers, and all who are much heated by day, carefully to avoid them. When the perſpiration has been great, theſe become dangerous in proportion. By not attending to this, in flat marſhy countries, where the exhalations and dews are copious, labourers are often ſeized with intermitting fevers, quinſies, and the like.

Sleeping in damp beds ſeldom fails to obſtruct the perſpiration. Beds become damp, either from their not being uſed, ſtanding in damp houſes, or in rooms without fire. Nothing is more to be dreaded by travellers than damp beds, which are very common in all places where fuel is ſcarce. When a traveller, cold and wet, arrives at an inn, he may by means of a good fire, warm diluting liquor, and a dry bed, have the perſpiration reſtored; but if he be put into a cold room, and laid on a damp bed, it will be more obſtructed, and the worſt conſequences will enſue. Travellers ſhould avoid inns which are noted for damp beds, as they would a houſe infected with the plague; as no man, however robuſt, is proof againſt the danger ariſing from them. Damp beds.

But

But inns are not the only places where damp beds are to be met with. Beds kept in private families for the reception of ſtrangers, are often equally dangerous. All kinds of linen and bedding, when not frequently uſed, become damp. How then is it poſſible, that beds, which are not ſlept in above two or three times a-year, ſhould be otherwiſe? Nothing is more common than to hear people complain of having caught cold by changing their bed. The reaſon is obvious: Were they careful never to ſleep in a bed but what was frequently uſed, they would ſeldom find any ill conſequences from a change.

Nothing is more to be dreaded by a delicate perſon when on a viſit, than being laid in a bed which is kept on purpoſe for ſtrangers. That ill-judged piece of complaiſance becomes a real injury. All the bad conſequences from this quarter might be eaſily prevented in private families, by cauſing their ſervants ſleep in the ſpare beds, and reſign them to ſtrangers when they come. This is the cuſtom of many families in London, and we would earneſtly recommend it to all who value the health of their friends. In inns where the beds are uſed almoſt every night, nothing elſe is neceſſary than to keep the rooms well ſeaſoned by frequent fires, and the linen dry.

Damp houſes.

Damp houſes frequently produce the like ill conſequences; for this reaſon thoſe who build ſhould be careful to chuſe a dry ſituation. A houſe

houſe which ſtands on a damp marſhy ſoil muſt be hurtful to the health of the inhabitants. All houſes, unleſs where the ground is exceeding dry, ſhould have the firſt floor a little raiſed. Servants and others, who are obliged to live in cellars and ſunk ſtories, ſeldom continue long in health: But maſters ought ſurely to pay ſome regard to the health of their ſervants, as well as to their own.

NOTHING is more common than for people, merely to avoid ſome trifling inconveniency, to hazard their lives, by inhabiting a houſe almoſt as ſoon as the maſons, plaſterers, &c. have done with it: Such houſes are not only dangerous from their dampneſs, but likewiſe from the ſmell of lime, paints, &c. The aſthmas, conſumptions, and other diſeaſes of the lungs, ſo incident to people who work in theſe articles, are ſufficient proofs of their being unwholeſome.

HOUSES are often rendered damp by an unſeaſonable piece of cleanlineſs; I mean the pernicious cuſtom of waſhing rooms immediately before company is put into them. Many people are ſure to catch cold, if they ſit but a very ſhort time in a room that has been lately waſhed; the delicate ought carefully to avoid ſuch a ſituation, and even the robuſt would run leſs hazard by ſitting without doors. People who are accuſtomed to live in dry houſes, ought, as far as poſſible, to ſhun damp ones, and by all means not to continue long in rooms that have been lately waſhed.

Sudden tranſitions from heat to cold.

BUT nothing ſo frequently obſtructs the perſpiration as SUDDEN TRANSITIONS from heat to cold. Colds are ſeldom caught, unleſs when people have been too much heated. Heat rarifies the blood, quickens the circulation, and increaſes the perſpiration; but when theſe are ſuddenly checked, the conſequences muſt be bad. It is indeed impoſſible for labourers not to be too hot upon ſome occaſions; but it is generally in their power to put on their clothes when they leave off work, to make choice of a dry place to reſt themſelves in, and to avoid ſleeping in the open fields. Theſe eaſy rules, if obſerved, would ſave many uſeful lives.

NOTHING is more common than for people when hot, to drink freely of cold ſmall liquors. This conduct is extremely dangerous. Thirſt indeed is hard to bear, and the inclination to gratify that appetite frequently gets the better of reaſon, and makes us do what our judgment diſapproves. Every peaſant knows if his horſe be permitted to drink his belly-full of cold water after violent exerciſe, and be immediately put into the ſtable, or ſuffered to remain at reſt, that it will kill him. This they take the utmoſt care to prevent. It were well if they were equally attentive to their own ſafety.

THIRST may be quenched many ways without ſwallowing large quantities of cold liquor. The fields afford variety of acid fruits and plants, the very chewing of which would abate thirſt. Water kept in the mouth for ſome time, and ſpit out again,

again, if frequently repeated, will have the ſame effect. If a bit of bread be eat along with a few mouthfuls of water, it will both quench thirſt more effectually, and make the danger leſs. When a perſon is extremely hot, a mouthful of brandy, or other ſpirits, ought to be preferred to any thing elſe, if it can be obtained. But if any one has been ſo fooliſh, when hot, as to drink freely of cold liquor, he ought to continue his exerciſe at leaſt, till what he drank be thoroughly warmed upon his ſtomach.

It would be tedious to enumerate all the bad effects which flow from drinking cold thin liquors when the body is hot. Sometimes this has occaſioned immediate death. Hoarſeneſs, quinſeys, and fevers of various kinds, are its common conſequences. Neither is it ſafe when warm to eat freely of raw fruits, ſallads, or the like. Theſe indeed have not ſo ſudden an effect on the body as cold liquors, but they are notwithſtanding dangerous, and ought to be avoided.

Sitting in a warm room, and drinking hot liquors till the pores are quite open, and immediately going into the cold air, is extremely dangerous. Colds, coughs, and inflammations of the breaſt, are the uſual effects of this conduct: Yet nothing is more common! Many people, after having drank warm liquors for ſeveral hours, walk or ride a number of miles in the coldeſt night; while others ſit up all night, or ramble about in the ſtreets.

People are very apt when a room is hot, to throw open a window, and to ſit near it. This is a moſt dangerous practice. Any perſon had better ſit without doors than in ſuch a ſituation, as the current of air is directed againſt one particular part of the body. Inflammatory fevers and conſumptions have often been occaſioned by ſitting or ſtanding thinly clothed near an open window. Nor is ſleeping with open windows leſs to be dreaded. That ought never to be done even in the hotteſt ſeaſon. I have known mechanics frequently contract fatal diſeaſes, by working ſtript at an open window, and would adviſe all of them to beware of ſuch a practice.

Nothing expoſes people more to catch cold than keeping their own houſes too warm; ſuch perſons may be ſaid to live in a ſort of hot-houſes; they can hardly ſtir abroad to viſit a neighbour, but at the hazard of their lives. Were there no other reaſon for keeping houſes in a moderate degree of warmth, that alone is ſufficient: But no houſe that is too hot can be wholeſome; heat deſtroys the ſpring and elaſticity of the air, and renders it leſs fit for expanding the lungs, and the other purpoſes of reſpiration. Hence it is, that conſumptions and other diſeaſes of the lungs prove ſo fatal to people who work in forges, glaſs-houſes, and the like.

Some are even ſo fool-hardy, as to plunge themſelves when hot in cold water. Not only fevers, but madneſs itſelf has frequently been the effect of this

this conduct. Indeed it looks too like the action of a madman to deſerve a ſerious conſideration.

We ſhall conclude theſe obſervations on the common cauſes of catching cold, by recommending it to every one to avoid, with the utmoſt attention, all ſudden tranſitions from heat to cold, and to keep the body in as uniform a temperature as poſſible; or, where that cannot be done, to take care to let it cool gradually.

People may be apt to imagine that too ſtrict an attention to theſe things would tend to render them delicate. So far however is this from being our deſign, that the very firſt rule propoſed for preventing colds, is to harden the body by enuring it daily to the open air.

PART II.

OF DISEASES.

CHAP. XII.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS CONCERNING THE KNOWLEDGE AND CURE OF DISEASES.

IT is no doubt difficult to obtain ſuch a knowledge of diſeaſes ſo as to be able to diſtinguiſh them from one another. This however does not depend ſo much upon ſcientific principles as many imagine. It is chiefly the reſult of experience and obſervation. By attending the ſick, and carefully obſerving the various occurrences in diſeaſes, a great degree of accuracy may be acquired, both in diſtinguiſhing their ſymptoms, and in the application of medicines. Hence ſenſible nurſes and other perſons who wait upon the ſick often know diſeaſes better than thoſe who have been bred to phyſic. We do not however mean to inſinuate that a medical education is of no uſe: It is doubtleſs of the greateſt importance, but it never

never can ſupply the place of experience and obſervation.

In a former edition we endeavoured, in this place, to lay down rules for diſtinguiſhing diſeaſes; but as it is impoſſible for any one to retain theſe in his memory, we have omitted them, and, in order to ſupply their place, have given as full and accurate a deſcription of each particular diſeaſe, in its order, as the nature of our plan would admit.

Diseases often reſemble one another ſo nearly in many of their ſymptoms that it is no eaſy matter to diſtinguiſh them. When this is the caſe, we have always taken care to point out thoſe peculiar, or characteriſtic ſymptoms, by which the diſeaſe is diſtinguiſhed, and at the ſame time to mention thoſe which are common to it with other diſeaſes. By a proper attention to theſe, we hope, the inveſtigation of diſeaſes will be found to be a leſs difficult matter than moſt perſons would, at firſt ſight, be ready to imagine.

A proper attention to the age, ſex, temper of mind, conſtitution, &c. of the patient will greatly aſſiſt both in the inveſtigation and cure of diſeaſes.

In childhood the fibres are lax and ſoft, the nerves extremely irritable, and the fluids thin; whereas in old age the fibres are rigid, the nerves become almoſt inſenſible, and many of the veſſels imperviable. Theſe and other peculiarities render the diſeaſes of the young and aged

very different, and of courſe they muſt require a different method of treatment.

FEMALES are liable to many diſeaſes which do not afflict the other ſex: beſides, the nervous ſyſtem being more irritable in them than in men, their diſeaſes require to be treated with greater caution. They are leſs able to bear large evacuations; and all ſtimulating medicines ought to be adminiſtered to them with a ſparing hand.

PARTICULAR conſtitutions not only diſpoſe perſons to peculiar diſeaſes, but likewiſe render it neceſſary to treat theſe diſeaſes in a peculiar manner. A delicate perſon, for example, with weak nerves, who lives moſtly within doors, muſt not be treated, under any diſeaſe, preciſely in the ſame manner as one who is hardy and robuſt, and who is much expoſed to the open air.

THE temper of mind ought to be very carefully attended to in diſeaſes. Fear, anxiety, and a fretful temper both occaſion and aggravate diſeaſes. In vain do we apply medicines to the body to remove maladies which proceed from the mind. When it is affected the beſt medicine is to ſooth the paſſions, to divert the mind from anxious thought, and to keep the patient as eaſy and cheerful as poſſible.

ATTENTION ought likewiſe to be paid to the place where the patient lives, the air he breathes, his diet, occupation, *&c.* Such as live in low marſhy ſituations are ſubject to many diſeaſes which are unknown to the inhabitants of high countries. Thoſe who breathe the impure air of cities have many

maladies to which the more happy ruſtics are entire ſtrangers. Perſons who feed groſsly, and indulge in ſtrong liquors, are liable to diſeaſes which do not affect the temperate and abſtemious, &c.

It has already been obſerved that the different occupations and ſituations in life diſpoſe men to peculiar diſeaſes. It is therefore neceſſary to inquire into the patient's occupation, manner of life, &c. This will not only aſſiſt us in finding out the diſeaſe, but will likewiſe direct us in the treatment of it. It would be very imprudent to treat the laborious and the ſedentary exactly in the ſame manner, even ſuppoſing them to labour under the ſame diſeaſe.

It will likewiſe be proper to inquire whether the diſeaſe be conſtitutional or accidental; whether it has been of long or ſhort ſtanding; whether it proceeds from any great and ſudden alteration in the diet, manner of life, &c. The ſtate of the patient's belly, and of the other evacuations, ought alſo to be inquired into; and likewiſe whether he can with eaſe perform all the vital and animal functions, as reſpiration, digeſtion, &c.

Lastly, it will be proper to inquire what diſeaſes the patient has formerly been moſt liable to, and what medicines were moſt beneficial to him. It will likewiſe be neceſſary to inquire what kind of medicines are moſt agreeable to the patient, or if he has a ſtrong averſion to any particular drug, &c.

It has already been obſerved that many of the indications of cure in diſeaſes may be anſwered by diet alone. The diet is therefore the firſt thing to be attended to in the treatment of diſeaſes. Thoſe who know no better imagine that every thing which goes by the name of a medicine poſſeſſes ſome wonderful power or ſecret charm, and think, if the patient ſwallows enough of drugs, that he muſt do well. This miſtake has many ill conſequences. It makes people truſt to drugs and neglect their own endeavours; beſides it diſcourages all attempts to relieve the ſick where medicines cannot be had.

Medicines are no doubt uſeful in their own place, and, when adminiſtered with prudence, they may do much good; but when they are put in place of every thing elſe, or adminiſtered at random, which is not ſeldom the caſe, they muſt do miſchief. We would therefore wiſh to call the attention of mankind from the purſuit of ſecret medicines to ſuch things as they are acquainted with. The proper regulation of theſe may often do much good, and there is little danger of their ever doing hurt.

Every diſeaſe weakens the digeſtive powers. The diet ought therefore, in all diſeaſes, to be light and of eaſy digeſtion. It would be as prudent for a perſon with a broken leg to attempt to walk, as for one in a fever to eat the ſame kind of food, and in the ſame quantity, as when he was in perfect health. Even abſtinence alone will often

often cure a fever, eſpecially when it has been occaſioned by exceſs in eating or drinking.

In all fevers attended with inflammation, as pleuriſies, peripneumonies, &c. thin gruels, wheys, watery infuſions of mucilaginous plants, roots, &c. are not only proper for the patient's food, but they are likewiſe the beſt medicines which can be adminiſtered.

In fevers of a ſlow, nervous, or putrid kind, where there are no ſymptoms of inflammation, and where the patient muſt be ſupported with cordials, that intention can always be more effectually anſwered by nouriſhing diet and generous wines, than by any medicines yet known.

Nor is a proper attention to diet of leſs importance in chronic than in acute diſeaſes. Perſons afflicted with low ſpirits, wind, weak nerves, and other hypochondriacal affections, generally find more benefit from the uſe of ſolid food and generous liquors, than from all the cordial and carminative medicines which can be adminiſtered to them.

The ſcurvy, that moſt obſtinate malady, will ſooner yield to a proper vegetable diet than to all the boaſted antiſcorbutic remedies of the ſhops.

In conſumptions, when the humours are vitiated, and the ſtomach ſo much weakened as to be unable to digeſt the ſolid fibres of animals, or even to aſſimulate the juices of vegetables, a diet conſiſting chiefly of *milk* will not only ſupport the patient, but will often cure the diſeaſe after every other medicine has failed.

Nor

Nor is an attention to other things of leſs importance than to diet. The ſtrange infatuation which has long induced people to ſhut up the ſick from all communication with the external air has done great miſchief. Not only in fevers, but in many other diſeaſes, the patient will receive more benefit from having the freſh air prudently admitted into his chamber, than from all the medicines which can be given him.

Exercise may likewiſe, in many caſes, be conſidered as a medicine. Riding on horſeback, for example, will be of more ſervice in the cure of conſumptions, glandular obſtructions, *&c.* than any medicine yet known. In diſeaſes which proceed from a relaxed ſtate of the ſolids, the cold bath and other parts of the gymnaſtic regimen, will be found equally beneficial.

Few things are of greater importance, even in the cure of diſeaſes, than cleanlineſs. When a patient is ſuffered to lie in dirty clothes, whatever perſpires from his body is again reſorbed, or taken up into it, which ſerves to nouriſh the diſeaſe, and increaſe the danger. Many diſeaſes may be cured by cleanlineſs alone; moſt of them may be mitigated by it, and in all of them it is highly agreeable both to the patient and thoſe who attend him.

Many other obſervations, were it neceſſary, might be adduced to prove the importance of a proper regimen in diſeaſes. Regimen will often cure diſeaſes without medicine, but medicine will

ſeldom

ſeldom ſucceed where a proper regimen is neglected. For this reaſon in the treatment of diſeaſes, we have always given the firſt place to regimen. Thoſe who are afraid to uſe medicines may confine themſelves to it only. For others, who have more knowledge, we have recommended ſome of the moſt ſimple, but approved, forms of medicine in every diſeaſe. Theſe however are never to be adminiſtered but by people of better ſenſe, nor even by them without the precautions which are recommended along with them.

CHAP.

CHAP. XIII.

OF FEVERS IN GENERAL.

A Fever is the moſt general diſeaſe incident to mankind. It attacks every age, ſex, and conſtitution, and affects every part of the body; nor is the mind itſelf free from its influence. A fever is known by a quick pulſe, an increaſed heat, a general debility, and a difficulty in performing ſome of the vital or animal functions, as breathing, walking, *&c.*

Fevers are divided into continual, remitting, and intermitting. By a continual fever is meant that which never leaves the patient during the whole courſe of the diſeaſe, or which ſhews no remarkable increaſe or abatement in the ſymptoms. This kind of fever is likewiſe divided into acute, ſlow, and malignant. The fever is called *acute* when its progreſs is quick, and the ſymptoms violent; but when theſe are more gentle, it is generally denominated *ſlow*. When livid or petechial ſpots ſhew a putrid ſtate of the humours, the fever is called *malignant*, *putrid* or *petechial*.

A remitting fever differs from a continual only in degree. It has frequent increaſes and decreaſes, or exacerbations and remiſſions, but never wholly leaves the patient during the courſe of the diſeaſe.

Inter-

Intermitting fevers, or agues, are thoſe which, during the time that the patient may be ſaid to be ill, have evident intervals or remiſſions of the ſymptoms.

As a fever is nothing elſe but an effort of nature to free herſelf from an offending cauſe, it is the buſineſs of thoſe who have the care of the ſick, to obſerve with diligence which way nature points, and to endeavour to aſſiſt her operations. Our bodies are ſo framed as to have a conſtant tendency to expel or throw off whatever is injurious to health. This is generally done by urine, ſweat, ſtool, expectoration, vomit, or ſome other evacuation.

THERE is reaſon to believe, if the efforts of nature, at the beginning of a fever, were duly attended to and promoted, it would ſeldom continue longer than twenty-four hours; but when her attempts are either neglected, or counteracted, it is no wonder if the diſeaſe be prolonged. There are daily inſtances of perſons who, after catching cold, have all the ſymptoms of a beginning fever; but by keeping warm, drinking diluting liquors, bathing their feet in warm water, *&c.* the ſymptoms in a few hours diſappear, and the danger is prevented. In a word, almoſt every fever proceeding from an obſtructed perſpiration, might be carried off, or its danger prevented, by timely care.

OUR deſign is not to enter into a critical inquiry into the nature, cauſes, *&c.* of fevers, but to mark their moſt obvious ſymptoms, and to point

point out the proper treatment of the patient with reſpect to his diet, drink, air, warmth, &c. in the different ſtages of the diſeaſe. In theſe articles the inclinations of the patient will, in a great meaſure, direct our conduct.

Almost every perſon in a fever complains of great thirſt, and calls out for drink, eſpecially of a cooling nature. This at once points out the uſe of *water*, which we may venture to call the greateſt febrifuge in nature. What is ſo likely to abate the heat, attenuate the humours, remove ſpaſms and obſtructions, promote perſpiration, increaſe the quantity of urine, and, in ſhort, produce every ſalutary effect in an ardent or inflammatory fever, as drinking plentifully of warm water, thin gruel, or any other weak, diluting liquor of which water is the baſis? The neceſſity of diluting liquors is pointed out by the dry tongue, the parched ſkin, and the burning heat, as well as by the unquenchable thirſt of the patient.

Many cooling liquors, which are extremely grateful to patients in a fever, may be prepared from fruits, as decoctions of tamarinds, apple-tea, orange whey, and the like. Mucilaginous liquors might alſo be prepared from marſh-mallow roots, linſeed, lime-tree buds, and many other vegetables. Theſe liquors, eſpecially when acidulated, are highly agreeable to the patient, and ſhould never be denied him.

At the beginning of a fever the patient generally complains of great laſſitude or wearineſs, and has no inclination to move. This evidently

ſhew

ſhews the propriety of keeping him eaſy, and, if poſſible, in bed; lying in bed relaxes the ſpaſms, abates the violence of the circulation, and gives Nature an opportunity of exerting all her force to overcome the diſeaſe. The bed alone would often remove a fever at the beginning; but when the patient ſtruggles with the diſeaſe, inſtead of driving it off, he only fixes it the deeper, and renders it more dangerous. This obſervation is too often verified in travellers, who happen when on a journey to be ſeized with a fever. Their anxiety to get home induces them to travel with the fever upon them, which conduct ſeldom fails to render it fatal.

In fevers the mind as well as the body ſhould be kept eaſy. Company is ſeldom agreeable to the ſick. Indeed every thing that diſturbs the imagination increaſes the diſeaſe; for which reaſon every perſon in a fever ought to be kept perfectly quiet, and neither allowed to ſee nor hear any thing that may in the leaſt affect or diſcompoſe his mind.

Though the patient in a fever has the greateſt inclination for drink, yet he ſeldom has any appetite for ſolid food; hence we may learn the impropriety of loading his ſtomach with victuals. Much ſolid food in a fever is every way hurtful to the patient. It oppreſſes nature, and inſtead of nouriſhing the patient, ſerves only to feed the diſeaſe. What food the patient takes ſhould be in ſmall quantity, light, and eaſy of digeſtion.

It ought to be chiefly of the vegetable kind, as panado, roaſted apples, groat-gruel, and ſuch like.

Poor people, when any of their family are taken ill, run directly to their rich neighbours for cordials, and pour wines, ſpirits, &c. into the patient, who perhaps never had been accuſtomed to taſte ſuch liquors when in health. If there be any degree of fever, this conduct muſt increaſe it, and if there be none, this is the ready way to raiſe one. Stuffing the patient with ſweetmeats and other delicacies, is likewiſe very pernicious. Theſe are always harder to digeſt than common food, and cannot fail to hurt the ſtomach.

Nothing is more deſired by a patient in a fever than freſh air. It not only removes his anxiety, but cools the blood, revives the ſpirits, and proves every way beneficial. Many patients are in a manner ſtifled to death in fevers, for want of freſh air; yet ſuch is the unaccountable infatuation of moſt people, that the moment they think a perſon in a fever, they imagine he ſhould be kept in a cloſe chamber, into which not one particle of freſh air muſt be admitted. Inſtead of this there ought to be a conſtant ſtream of freſh air into a a ſick perſon's chamber, ſo as to keep it moderately cool. Indeed its degree of warmth ought never to be greater than is agreeable to one in perfect health.

Nothing ſpoils the air of a ſick perſon's chamber, or hurts the patient more than a number

ber of people breathing in it. When the blood is inflamed, or the humours in a putrid ſtate, air that has been breathed repeatedly will greatly increaſe the diſeaſe. Such air not only loſes its ſpring, and becomes unfit for the purpoſes of reſpiration, but acquires a noxious quality, which renders it in a manner poiſonous to the ſick.

In fevers, when the patient's ſpirits are low and depreſſed, he is not only to be ſupported with cordials, but every method ſhould be taken to cheer and comfort his mind. Many, from a miſtaken zeal, when they think a perſon in danger, inſtead of ſolacing his mind with the hopes and conſolations of religion, fright him with the views of hell and damnation. It would be unſuitable here to dwell upon the impropriety and dangerous conſequences of this conduct; it often hurts the body, and there is reaſon to believe ſeldom benefits the ſoul.

Amongst common people, the very name of a fever generally ſuggeſts the neceſſity of bleeding. This notion ſeems to have taken its riſe from moſt fevers in this country having been formerly of an inflammatory nature; but true inflammatory fevers are now ſeldom to be met with. Sedentary occupations, and a different manner of living, has ſo changed the ſtate of diſeaſes in Britain, that there is now hardly one fever in ten where the lancet is neceſſary. In moſt low, nervous, and putrid fevers, which are now ſo common, bleeding is really hurtful, as it weakens the patient, ſinks his ſpirits, &c. We would recommend

mend this general rule, never to bleed at the beginning of a fever, unleſs there be evident ſigns of inflammation. Bleeding is an excellent medicine when neceſſary, but ſhould never be wantonly performed.

It is likewiſe a common notion, that it is always neceſſary to raiſe a ſweat in the beginning of a fever. As fevers often proceed from an obſtructed perſpiration, this notion is not ill founded. If the patient only lies in bed, bathes his feet and legs in warm water, and drinks freely of water-gruel, or any other weak, diluting liquor, he will ſeldom fail to perſpire freely. The warmth of the bed, and the diluting drink will relax the univerſal ſpaſm, which generally affects the ſolids at the beginning of a fever; it will open the pores, and promote the perſpiration, by means of which the fever may often be carried off. But inſtead of this, the common practice is to heap clothes upon the patient, and to give him things of a hot nature, as ſpirits, ſpiceries, *&c.* which fire his blood, increaſe the ſpaſms, and render the diſeaſe more dangerous.

In all fevers a proper attention ſhould be paid to the patient's longings. Theſe are the calls of nature, and often point out what may be of real uſe. Patients are not indeed to be wantonly indulged in every thing that the ſickly appetite may crave; but it is generally right to let them have a little of what they eagerly deſire, though it may not ſeem altogether proper. What the patient

longs

longs for, his ſtomach will generally digeſt; and ſuch things have ſometimes a very happy effect.

When a patient is recovering from a fever, great care is neceſſary to prevent a relapſe. Many perſons, by too ſoon imagining themſelves well, have relapſed, or contracted ſome other diſeaſe of an obſtinate nature. As the body after a fever is weak and delicate, it is neceſſary to guard againſt catching cold. Moderate exerciſe in the open air will be of uſe; agreeable company will alſo have a good effect. The diet muſt be light, but nouriſhing. It ſhould be taken frequently, but in ſmall quantities. It is dangerous at ſuch a time to eat as much as the ſtomach may crave.

CHAP. XIV.

OF INTERMITTING FEVERS OR AGUES.

INTERMITTING fevers afford the beſt opportunity both of obſerving the nature of a fever, and alſo the effects of medicine. No perſon can be at a loſs to diſtinguiſh an intermitting fever from any other, and the proper medicine for it is now almoſt univerſally known.

THE ſeveral kinds of intermitting fevers take their names from the period in which the fit returns, as quotidian, tertian, quartan, *&c.*

CAUSES.——Agues are occaſioned by moiſt air. This is evident from their abounding in rainy ſeaſons, and being moſt frequent in countries where the ſoil is marſhy, as in Holland, the fens of Cambridgeſhire, the Hundreds of Eſſex, *&c.* This diſeaſe may alſo be occaſioned by eating too much ſtone fruit, by a poor watery diet, damp houſes, evening dews, lying upon the damp ground, *&c.* When the inhabitants of a high country remove to a low one, they ſeldom fail to catch an intermitting fever, and to ſuch the diſeaſe is moſt apt to prove fatal. In a word, whatever relaxes the ſolids, diminiſhes the perſpiration, or obſtructs

the circulation in the capillary or ſmall veſſels, diſpoſes the body to agues.

SYMPTOMS.——An intermitting fever generally begins with a pain of the head and loins, wearineſs of the limbs, coldneſs of the extremities, ſtretching, yawning, with ſometimes great ſickneſs and vomiting; to which ſucceed ſhivering and violent ſhaking. Afterwards the ſkin becomes moiſt, and a profuſe ſweat breaks out, which generally terminates the fit or paroxyſm. Sometimes indeed the diſeaſe comes on ſuddenly, when the perſon thinks himſelf in perfect health; but it is more commonly preceded by liſtleſsneſs, loſs of appetite, and the ſymptoms mentioned above.

REGIMEN.——While the fit continues, the patient ought to drink freely of water-gruel, orange-whey, weak camomile-tea; or, if his ſpirits be low, ſmall wine-whey, ſharpened with the juice of lemon. All his drink ſhould be warm, as that will aſſiſt in bringing on the ſweat, and conſequently ſhorten the paroxyſm.

BETWEEN the paroxyſms the patient muſt be ſupported with food that is nouriſhing, but light and eaſy of digeſtion, as veal or chicken broths, ſago gruel with a little wine, light puddings, *&c.* His drink may be ſmall negas, acidulated with the juice of lemons or oranges, and ſometimes a little weak punch. He ought likewiſe to drink infuſions of bitter herbs, as camomile, wormwood, or water-trefoil, and may now and then take a glaſs of ſmall wine, in which gen-

tian root, centaury, or ſome other bitter, has been infuſed.

As the chief intentions of cure in an ague are to brace the ſolids, and promote perſpiration, the patient ought to take as much exerciſe between the fits as he can bear. If he be able to go abroad, riding on horſeback, or in a machine, will be of great ſervice. But if he cannot bear that kind of exerciſe, he ought to take ſuch as his ſtrength will permit. Nothing tends more to prolong an intermitting fever, than indulging a lazy indolent diſpoſition.

INTERMITTING fevers, under a proper regimen, will often go off without medicine; and when the diſeaſe is mild, in an open dry country, there is ſeldom any danger from allowing it to take its courſe; but when the patient's ſtrength ſeems to decline, or the paroxyſms are ſo violent, that his life is in danger, medicine ought immediately to be adminiſtered. This however ſhould never be done till the diſeaſe be properly formed, that is to ſay, till the patient has had ſeveral fits of ſhaking and ſweating.

MEDICINE.——The firſt thing to be done in the cure of an intermitting fever, is to cleanſe the firſt paſſages. This not only renders the application of other medicines more ſafe, but likewiſe more efficacious. In this diſeaſe the ſtomach is generally loaded with cold viſcid phlegm, and frequently great quantities of bile are diſcharged by vomit; which plainly points out the neceſſity

of ſuch evacuations. Vomits are therefore to be adminiſtered before the patient takes any other medicine. A doſe of ipecacoanha will generally anſwer this purpoſe very well. Half a dram of the powder will be ſufficient for an adult, and for a younger perſon the doſe muſt be leſs in proportion. After the vomit begins to operate the patient ought to drink plentifully of weak camomile tea. The vomit ſhould be taken two or three hours before the return of the fit, and may be repeated at the diſtance of three or four days. Vomits not only cleanſe the ſtomach, but increaſe the perſpiration, and all the other ſecretions, which render them of ſuch importance, that they often cure intermitting fevers without the aſſiſtance of any other medicine. Of this I have ſeen many inſtances, and remember to have been completely cured myſelf of a regular tertian, by taking two vomits of ipecacoanha, and obſerving a proper regimen.

Purging medicines are likewiſe uſeful, and often neceſſary, in intermitting fevers. A ſmart purge has been known to cure an obſtinate ague, after the Peruvian bark and other medicines had been uſed in vain. Vomits however are more ſuitable in this diſeaſe, and render purging leſs neceſſary; but if the patient be afraid to take a vomit, he ought in this caſe to cleanſe the bowels by a doſe or two of glauber ſalts, jalap, or rhubarb.

Bleeding may ſometimes be proper at the beginning of an intermitting fever, when exceſſive heat,

heat, a delirium, &c. give reaſon to ſuſpect an inflammation; but as the blood is very ſeldom in an inflammatory ſtate in intermitting fevers, this operation is rarely neceſſary.

After proper evacuations, the patient may ſafely uſe the Peruvian bark, which may be taken in any way that is moſt agreeable to him. No preparation of the bark ſeems to anſwer better than the moſt ſimple form in which it can be given, *viz.* in powder.

Two ounces of the beſt jeſuits bark, finely powdered, may be divided into twenty-four doſes. Theſe may either be made into boluſſes, as they are uſed, with a little ſyrup of lemon, or mixed in a glaſs of red wine, a cup of camomile tea, water-gruel, or the like.

In an ague which returns every day, one of the above doſes may be taken every two hours during the interval of the fits. By this method the patient will be able to take five or ſix doſes between each paroxyſm. In a tertian, or third-day ague, it will be ſufficient to take a doſe every third hour, during the interval, and in a quartan every fourth. If the patient cannot take ſo large a doſe of the bark, he may divide each of the powders into two parts, and take one every hour, &c. For a young perſon, a ſmaller quantity of this medicine will be ſufficient, and the doſe muſt be adapted to the age, conſtitution, &c.

The above will ſeldom fail to ſtop an ague; the patient however ought not to leave off taking the

the medicine as ſoon as the paroxyſms are ſtopped, but ſhould continue to uſe it till ſuch time as there is reaſon to believe the diſeaſe is intirely overcome. Moſt of the failures in the cure of this diſeaſe are owing to patients not continuing to uſe the medicine long enough. They are generally directed to take it till the fits are ſtopped, then to leave it off, and begin again at ſome diſtance of time; by which means the diſeaſe gathers ſtrength, and often returns with as much violence as before. A relapſe may always be prevented by the patient's continuing to take ſmall doſes of the medicine for ſome time after the ſymptoms diſappear. This is both the moſt ſafe and effectual method of cure.

An ounce of gentian root, calamus aromaticus, and orange-peal, of each half an ounce, with three or four handfuls of chamomile flowers, and an handful of coriander-ſeed, all bruiſed together in a mortar, may be uſed in form of infuſion or tea. About half an handful of theſe ingredients may be put into a tea-pot, and an Engliſh pint of boiling water poured on them. A cup of this infuſion drank three or four times a day will ſtrengthen the ſtomach, and greatly promote the cure. Such patients as cannot drink the watery infuſion, may put two handfuls of the ſame ingredients into a bottle of white wine, and take a glaſs of it twice or thrice a day. If patients drink freely of the above, or any other proper infuſion of bitters, a much ſmaller quantity of bark than is generally

generally uſed, will be ſufficient to cure an ague.

THERE is reaſon to believe, that ſundry of our own plants or barks, which are very bitter and aſtringent, would ſucceed in the cure of intermitting fevers, eſpecially when aſſiſted by aromatics. But as the Peruvian bark has been long approved in the cure of this diſeaſe, and is now to be obtained at a very reaſonable rate, it is of leſs importance to ſearch after new medicines. We cannot however omit taking notice, that the Peruvian bark is very often adulterated, and that it requires conſiderable ſkill to diſtinguiſh between the genuine and the falſe. This ought to make people very cautious of whom they purchaſe it.

THOSE who cannot ſwallow the bark in ſubſtance, may take it in decoction or infuſion. An ounce of bark in powder may be infuſed in a bottle of white wine for four or five days, frequently ſhaking the bottle, afterwards let the powder ſubſide, and pour off the clear liquor. A wine glaſs may be drank three or four times a day, or oftener, as there is occaſion. If a decoction be more agreeable, an ounce of the bark, and two drams of ſnake-root bruiſed, with a dram of ſalt of wormwood, may be boiled in a proper quantity of water, into half an Engliſh pint. To the ſtrained liquor may be added an equal quantity of red wine, and a glaſs of it taken frequently.

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In obſtinate agues the bark will be found much more efficacious when aſſiſted by warm cordials, than taken alone. This I have had frequently occaſion to obſerve in a country where intermitting fevers were endemical. The bark ſeldom ſucceeded unleſs aſſiſted by ſnake-root, ginger, canella alba, or ſome other warm aromatic. When the fits are very frequent and violent, in which caſe the fever often approaches towards an inflammatory nature, it will be ſafer to leave out the ginger, and to add ſalt of tartar in its ſtead. But in an obſtinate tertian or quartan, in the end of autumn or beginning of winter, warm and cordial medicines are abſolutely neceſſary *.

As autumnal and winter agues generally prove much more obſtinate than thoſe which attack the patient in ſpring or ſummer; it will be neceſſary to continue the uſe of medicines longer in the former than in the latter. A perſon who is ſeized with an intermitting fever in the beginning of winter, ought frequently, if the ſeaſon proves rainy, to take a little medicine, although the diſeaſe may ſeem to be cured, to prevent a relapſe, till the return of the warm ſeaſon. He ought

* In obſtinate agues when the patient is old, the habit phlegmatic, the ſeaſon rainy, the ſituation damp, or the like, it will be neceſſary to mix with two ounces of the bark half an ounce of Virginian ſnake-root and a quarter of an ounce of ginger, or ſome other warm aromatic; but when the ſymptoms are of an inflammatory nature, half an ounce of ſalt of wormwood or ſalt of tartar may be added to the above quantity of bark.

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likewiſe to take care not to be much abroad in wet weather, eſpecially in cold eaſterly winds.

When agues are not properly cured, they often degenerate into obſtinate chronical diſeaſes, as the dropſy, jaundice, &c. For this reaſon all poſſible care ſhould be taken to have them radically cured, before the humours be vitiated, and the conſtitution ſpoiled.

Though nothing is more rational than the method of treating intermitting fevers, yet, by ſome ſtrange infatuation, more charms and whimſical remedies are daily uſed for removing this than any other diſeaſe. There is hardly an old woman who is not poſſeſſed of a noſtrum for ſtopping an ague; and it is amazing with what readineſs their pretenſions are believed. Thoſe in diſtreſs eagerly graſp at any thing that promiſes ſudden relief; but the ſhorteſt way is not always the ſafeſt in the treatment of diſeaſes. The only method to obtain a ſafe and laſting cure, is gradually to aſſiſt nature in removing the cauſe of the diſeaſe.

Some indeed try bold, or rather fool-hardy experiments to cure agues, as drinking ſtrong liquors, jumping into a river, &c. Theſe may ſometimes have the deſired effect, but muſt always be attended with danger. When there is any degree of inflammation, or the leaſt tendency to it, ſuch experiments may prove fatal. The only patient whom I remember to have loſt in an intermitting fever, evidently killed himſelf by drinking

drinking ſtrong liquor, which ſome perſon had perſuaded him would prove an infallible remedy.

MANY dirty things are extolled for the cure of intermitting fevers, as cobwebs, ſnuffings of candles, &c. Though theſe may ſometimes ſucceed, yet their very naſtineſs is ſufficient to ſet them aſide, eſpecially when cleanly medicines will anſwer the purpoſe better. The only medicine that can be depended upon, for thoroughly curing an intermitting fever, is the Peruvian bark. It may always be uſed with ſafety: and I can honeſtly declare, that in all my practice I never knew it fail, when properly applied, and duly perſiſted in.

WHERE agues are endemical, even children are often afflicted with that diſeaſe. Such patients are very difficult to cure, as they can ſeldom be prevailed upon to take the bark, or any other diſagreeable medicine. One method of rendering this medicine more palatable is, to make it into a mixture with diſtilled waters and ſyrup, and afterward to give it an agreeable ſharpneſs with the elixir or ſpirit of vitriol. This both improves the medicine, and takes off the nauſeous taſte. The bark may be adminiſtered to children in form of clyſter when they will not take it by the mouth.

WINE-WHEY is a very proper drink for a child in an ague; to half an Engliſh pint of which may be put a tea-ſpoonful of the ſpirit of hartſhorn. Exerciſe is likewiſe of conſiderable ſervice; and when the diſeaſe proves obſtinate, the child ought, if poſſible, to be removed to a warm dry air.

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The food ought to be nouriſhing, and ſometimes a little generous wine ſhould be allowed *.

We have been the more full upon this diſeaſe becauſe it is very common, and becauſe few patients in an ague apply to phyſicians unleſs in extremities. There are however many caſes in which the diſeaſe is very irregular, being complicated with other diſeaſes, or attended with ſymptoms which are both very dangerous, and very difficult to underſtand. All theſe we have purpoſely paſſed over, as they would only bewilder the generality of readers. When the diſeaſe is very irregular, or the ſymptoms dangerous, the patient ought immediately to apply to a phyſician, and ſtrictly to follow his advice.

To prevent agues, people muſt endeavour to avoid their cauſes. Theſe have been already pointed out in the beginning of this ſection; we ſhall therefore only add one preventive medicine, which may be of uſe to ſuch as are obliged to live in low marſhy countries, or who are liable to frequent attacks of this diſeaſe.

Take an ounce of the beſt jeſuits bark, Virginian ſnake-root, and orange-peel, of each half

* I have known children who would not take the Peruvian bark cured of an intermittent by the following medicine. Let two drams of ſalt of wormwood, or ſalt of tartar, be diſſolved in three ounces of freſh lemon juice; to which may be added two ounces of mint water, or ſimple cinnamon water, and the ſame quantity of common ſyrup. Two table ſpoonfuls of this may be given three or four times a day; and the medicine may be repeated as there is occaſion.

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an ounce, bruiſe them all together, and infuſe for five or ſix days in a bottle of brandy, Holland gin, or any good ſpirit; afterwards pour off the clear liquor, and take a wine-glaſs of it twice or thrice a day. This indeed is recommending a dram; but the bitter ingredients in a great meaſure take off the ill effects of the ſpirit. Thoſe who do not chuſe it in brandy, may infuſe it in wine; and ſuch as can bring themſelves to chew the bark, will find that method ſucceed very well. Gentian-root, or calamus-aromaticus, may alſo be chewed by turns for the ſame purpoſe. All bitters ſeem to be antidotes to agues, eſpecially thoſe that are warm and aſtringent.

CHAP. XV.

OF AN ACUTE CONTINUAL FEVER.

THIS fever is denominated acute, ardent, or inflammatory. It moſt commonly attacks the young, or thoſe about the prime or vigour of life, eſpecially ſuch as live full, abound with blood, and whoſe fibres are ſtrong and elaſtic. It ſeizes people at all ſeaſons of the year; but is moſt frequent in the ſpring and beginning of ſummer.

CAUSES.——An ardent fever may be occaſioned by any thing that overheats the body, as violent exerciſe, ſleeping in the ſun, drinking ſtrong liquors, eating ſpiceries, *&c.* It may likewiſe be occaſioned by whatever obſtructs the perſpiration, as lying on the damp ground, drinking cold liquor when the body is hot, night-watching, or the like.

SYMPTOMS.——A rigour or chillneſs generally uſhers in this fever, which is ſoon ſucceeded by great heat, a frequent and full pulſe, a pain of the head, dry ſkin, redneſs of the eyes, a florid countenance, pains in the back, loins, *&c.* To theſe ſucceed difficulty of breathing, ſickneſs, with an inclination to vomit. The patient complains of great thirſt, has no appetite for ſolid food, is reſtleſs,

reſtleſs, and his tongue generally appears black and rough.

A DELIRIUM, exceſſive reſtleſſneſs, great oppreſſion of the breaſt, with laborious reſpiration, ſtarting of the tendons, hiccup, cold, clammy ſweats, and an involuntary diſcharge of urine, are very dangerous ſymptoms.

As this diſeaſe is always attended with danger, the beſt medical aſſiſtance ought to be procured as ſoon as poſſible. A phyſician may be of uſe at the beginning, but his ſkill is often of no avail afterwards. Nothing can be more unaccountable than the conduct of thoſe who have it in their power, at the beginning of a fever, to procure the beſt medical aſſiſtance, yet put it off till things come to an extremity. When the diſeaſe, by delay or wrong treatment, has become incurable, and has exhauſted the ſtrength of the patient, it is in vain to hope for relief from medicine. Phyſicians may indeed aſſiſt nature; but their attempts muſt ever prove fruitleſs, when ſhe is no longer able to co-operate with their endeavours.

REGIMEN.——From the ſymptoms of this diſeaſe it is evident, that the humours muſt be too viſcid and acrimonious; that the perſpiration, urine, ſaliva, and all the other ſecretions, are in too ſmall quantity; that the veſſels are too rigid, and the heat of the whole body too great: All theſe clearly point out the neceſſity of a regimen, calculated to dilute the blood, deſtroy the acrimony of the humours, allay the exceſſive heat,

remove the ſpaſmodic ſtricture of the veſſels, and promote the ſecretions.

These important purpoſes may be greatly promoted by drinking plentifully of diluting liquors, as thin water-gruel or oatmeal-tea, clear whey, barley-water, balm-tea, apple-tea, &c. Theſe may be ſharpened with juice of orange, jelly of currants, raſpberries, and ſuch like: Orange-whey is likewiſe an excellent cooling drink. It is made by boiling among milk and water a bitter orange ſliced till the curd ſeparates. If no orange can be had, a lemon, a little cream of tartar, or a few ſpoonfuls of vinegar, will have the ſame effect. Two or three ſpoonfuls of white wine may occaſionally be added to the liquor when boiling.

If the patient be coſtive, an ounce of tamarinds, with two ounces of ſtoned raiſins of the ſun, and a couple of figs, may be boiled in three Engliſh pints of water to a quart. This makes a very pleaſant drink, and may be uſed at diſcretion. The common pectoral decoction is likewiſe a very proper drink in this diſeaſe. A tea-cupful of it may be taken every two hours, or oftener, if the patient's heat and thirſt be very great *.

* The pectoral decoction is made by boiling pearl barley, ſtoned raiſins, and figs, of each two ounces, liquorice root ſliced, half an ounce, in two Engliſh quarts, or one Scots pint, of water, till one half be conſumed. The barley ſhould be boiled for ſome time before the other ingredients are put in. If to this decoction two or three drams of purified nitre be occaſionally added, it will not only be an agreeable drink, but prove an exceeding good medicine.

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THE above liquors muſt all be drank a little warm. They may be uſed in ſmaller quantities at the beginning of a fever, but more freely afterwards, in order to aſſiſt in carrying off the morbid matter by the different excretions. We have mentioned a variety of liquors, that the patient may have it in his power to chuſe theſe which are moſt agreeable; and that, when tired of one, he may have recourſe to another.

THE patient's diet muſt be very ſpare and light. All ſorts of fleſh-meats, and even chicken-broths, are to be avoided. He may be allowed groat-gruel, panado, or light bread boiled in water; to which may be added a few grains of common ſalt, and a little ſugar, which will render it more palatable. He may eat roaſted apples with a little ſugar, toaſted bread with jelly of currants, boiled prunes, *&c.*

IT will greatly relieve the patient, eſpecially in an hot ſeaſon, to have freſh air frequently let into his chamber. This however muſt always be done in ſuch a manner as not to endanger his catching cold.

IT is a common practice in fevers to load the patient with bed-clothes, under the pretence of making him ſweat, or defending him from the cold. This cuſtom has many ill effects. It increaſes the heat of the body, fatigues the patient, and retards, inſtead of promoting, the perſpiration.

SITTING upright in bed, if the patient be able to bear it, will often have a good effect. It relieves the head, by retarding the motion of

the blood to the brain. But this poſture ought never to be continued too long: And if the patient be inclined to ſweat, it will be more ſafe to let him lie ſtill, only raiſing his head with pillows.

SPRINKLING the chamber with vinegar, juice of lemon, or vinegar and roſe-water, with a little nitre diſſolved in it, will greatly refreſh the patient. This ought to be done frequently, eſpecially if the weather be hot.

THE patient's mouth ſhould be often waſhed with a mixture of water and honey, to which a little vinegar may be added; or with a decoction of figs in barley-water. His feet and hands ought likewiſe frequently to be bathed in lukewarm water; eſpecially if the head be affected.

THE patient ſhould be kept as quiet and eaſy as poſſible. Company, noiſe, and every thing that diſturbs the mind is hurtful. Even too much light, or any thing that affects the ſenſes, ought to be avoided. His attendants ſhould be as few as poſſible, and they ought not to be too often changed. His inclinations ought rather to be ſoothed than contradicted; even the promiſe of what he craves will often ſatisfy him as much as its reality.

MEDICINE.——In this and all other fevers ariſing from an increaſed motion and viſcidity of the blood, bleeding is of the greateſt importance. This operation ought always to be performed as ſoon as the ſymptoms of an inflammatory fever appear. The quantity of blood to be let, however,

muſt be in proportion to the ſtrength of the patient, and the violence of the diſeaſe. If after the firſt bleeding the fever ſeems to riſe, and the pulſe feels hard, there will be a neceſſity for repeating it a ſecond, and perhaps a third or even a fourth time, which may be done at the diſtance of twelve, eighteen, or twenty-four hours from each other, or longer, as the ſymptoms require. If the pulſe continues ſoft, and the patient is tolerably eaſy after the firſt bleeding, it ought not to be repeated.

If the heat and fever be very great, forty or fifty drops of the dulcified, or ſweet ſpirit of vitriol, may be made into a draught, with an ounce of roſe-water, two ounces of common water, and half an ounce of ſimple ſyrup, or a bit of loaf-ſugar. This draught may be given to the patient every three or four hours while the fever is violent; afterwards, once in five or ſix hours will be ſufficient.

If the patient be afflicted with reaching, or an inclination to vomit, it will be right to aſſiſt Nature's attempts, by giving him weak camomile tea or lukewarm water to drink.

If the belly be bound, the patient ought daily to receive a clyſter of milk and water with a little ſalt, and a ſpoonful of ſweet oil or freſh butter. Should this not have the deſired effect, a tea-ſpoonful of magneſia alba, or cream of tartar, may be frequently put into his drink. He may likewiſe eat tamarinds, boiled prunes, roaſted apples, and the like.

If about the 10th, 11th, or 12th day, the pulſe becomes more ſoft, the tongue moiſter, and the urine begins to let fall a reddiſh ſediment, there is reaſon to expect a favourable iſſue to the diſeaſe. But if, inſtead of theſe ſymptoms, the patient's ſpirits grow languid, his pulſe ſinks, and his breathing becomes difficult; with a ſtupor, trembling of the nerves, ſtarting of the tendons, &c. there is reaſon to fear that the conſequences will be fatal. In this caſe bliſtering plaſters muſt be applied to the head, ancles, inſide of the legs or thighs, as there may be occaſion; poultices of wheat bread, muſtard and vinegar, may likewiſe be applied to the ſoles of the feet, and the patient muſt be ſupported with cordials, as ſtrong wine-whey, negas, ſago-gruel, with wine in it, and ſuch like.

A PROPER regimen is not only neceſſary during the fever, but likewiſe after the patient begins to recover. By neglecting this, many relapſe, or fall into other diſeaſes, and continue valetudinary for life. Though the body be weak after a fever, yet the food for ſome time ought to be rather cleanſing than of too nouriſhing a nature. The perſon ſhould take great care not to exceed in any thing. Too much food, drink, exerciſe, company, &c. are carefully to be avoided. The mind ought likewiſe to be kept eaſy, and the perſon ſhould not attempt to purſue ſtudy, or any buſineſs that requires intenſe thinking.

If the digeſtion be bad, or the perſon be troubled at times with feveriſh heats, an infuſion of Peruvian bark in cold water will be of uſe. It will ſtrengthen the ſtomach, and help to ſubdue the remains of the fever.

When the patient's ſtrength is pretty well recovered, he ought to take ſome gentle laxative. An once of tamarinds and a dram of ſenna, may be boiled for a few minutes in an Engliſh pint of water, and an ounce of manna diſſolved in the decoction; afterwards it may be ſtrained, and a tea-cupful drank every hour till it operates. This doſe may be repeated twice or thrice, five or ſix days intervening betwixt each doſe.

Thoſe who follow laborious employments ought not to return too ſoon to their labour after a fever, but ſhould keep eaſy till their ſtrength and ſpirits be recruited.

CHAP.

CHAP. XVI.

OF THE PLEURISY.

THE true pleuriſy is an inflammation of that membrane, called *the pleura*, which lines the inſide of the breaſt. It is diſtinguiſhed into the moiſt and dry. In the former, the patient ſpits freely; but in the latter, little or none at all. There is likewiſe a ſpecies of this diſeaſe, which is called the *ſpurious* or *baſtard pleuriſy*, in which the pain is more external, and chiefly affects the muſcles between the ribs. The pleuriſy prevails among labouring people, eſpecially ſuch as work without doors, and are of a ſanguine conſtitution. It is moſt frequent in the ſpring-ſeaſon.

CAUSES. —— The pleuriſy may be occaſioned by whatever obſtructs the perſpiration; as cold northerly winds; drinking cold liquors when the body is hot; ſleeping without doors on the damp ground; wet clothes; plunging the body into cold water, or expoſing it to the cold air, when covered with ſweat, *&c.* It may likewiſe be occaſioned by drinking ſtrong liquors; by the ſtoppage of uſual evacuations; as old ulcers, iſſues, ſweating of the feet or hands, *&c.*; the ſudden ſtriking in of any eruption, as the itch, the meaſles, or the ſmall-pox. Thoſe who have been

been accuſtomed to bleed at a certain ſeaſon of the year, are apt, if they neglect it, to be ſeized with a pleuriſy. Keeping the body too warm by means of fire, clothes, &c. renders it more liable to this diſeaſe. A pleuriſy may likewiſe be occaſioned by violent exerciſe, as running, wreſtling, leaping, or by ſupporting great weights, blows on the breaſt, &c. The very make of the body ſometimes renders perſons more liable to this diſeaſe, as a narrow cheſt, a ſtraitneſs of the arteries of the pleura, &c.

SYMPTOMS.——This, like moſt other fevers, generally begins with chillneſs and ſhivering, which are followed by heat, thirſt, and reſtleſſneſs. To theſe ſucceed a violent pricking pain in one of the ſides among the ribs. Sometimes the pain extends towards the back-bone, ſometimes towards the fore-part of the breaſt, and at other times towards the ſhoulder-blades. The pain is generally moſt violent when the patient draws in his breath.

The pulſe in this diſeaſe is generally quick and hard, the urine high coloured; and if blood be let, it is covered with a tough cruſt, or buffy coat. The patient's ſpittle is at firſt thin, but afterwards it becomes groſſer, and is often ſtreaked with blood.

REGIMEN.——Nature generally endeavours to carry off this diſeaſe by a critical diſcharge of blood from ſome part of the body, by expectoration, ſweat, looſe ſtools, thick urine, or the like.

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We ought therefore to ſecond her intentions by leſſening the force of the circulation, relaxing the veſſels, diluting the humours, and promoting expectoration.

For theſe purpoſes the diet, as in the former diſeaſe, muſt be cool, ſlender, and diluting. The patient muſt avoid all food that is viſcid, hard of digeſtion, or that affords much nouriſhment; as fleſh, butter, cheeſe, eggs, milk, and alſo every thing that is of a heating nature. His drink muſt be ſweet whey, or decoctions and infuſions of the pectoral and balſamic vegetables *.

Barley-water, with a little honey, or jelly of currants mixed with it, is likewiſe a very proper drink in this diſeaſe. It is made by boiling an ounce of pearl-barley in three Engliſh pints of water to two, which muſt afterwards be ſtrained. The decoction of figs, raiſins, and barley, &c. recommended in the preceding diſeaſe, is here likewiſe very proper. Theſe and other diluting liquors are not to be drank in large quantities at a time, but the patient ought, in a manner, to keep continually ſipping them, ſo as to render his

* Take two table-ſpoonfuls of linſeed, a quarter of an ounce of liquorice root ſliced, and half an ounce of the leaves of coltsfoot. Put theſe ingredients in a cloſe veſſel, pour on them an Engliſh quart of boiling water, and let them ſtand near a fire for eight or ten hours; afterwards ſtrain off the liquor; of which the patient may take a tea-cupful frequently for his ordinary drink. This may be ſharpened to the patient's taſte by the addition of a little jelly of currants or juice of bitter oranges, &c.

mouth

mouth and throat always moiſt. All his food and drink muſt be taken a little warm.

The patient ſhould be kept quiet, cool, and every way eaſy, as directed under the foregoing diſeaſe. His feet and hands ought daily to be bathed in warm water; and he may ſometimes ſit up in bed for a ſhort ſpace, in order to relieve his head.

MEDICINE.——Almoſt every perſon knows when a fever is attended with a violent pain of the ſide, and a quick, hard pulſe, that bleeding is neceſſary. When theſe ſymptoms appear, the ſooner this operation is performed the better; and the quantity at firſt muſt be pretty large, provided the patient be able to bear it. A large quantity of blood let at once, in the beginning of a pleuriſy, has a much better effect than ſeveral repeated ſmall bleedings. An adult may loſe ten or twelve ounces of blood as ſoon as it is certainly known that he is ſeized with a pleuriſy. For a younger perſon, or one of a delicate conſtitution, the quantity muſt be leſs.

If, after the firſt bleeding, the ſtitch, with the other violent ſymptoms, ſhould ſtill continue, it will be neceſſary, at the diſtance of twelve or eighteen hours, to let eight or nine ounces more. If the ſymptoms do not then abate, and the blood ſhews a ſtrong buffy coat, a third or even a fourth bleeding may be requiſite. If the pain of the ſide abates, the pulſe becomes ſofter, or the patient begins to ſpit freely, bleeding ought not to

be repeated. This operation is ſeldom neceſſary after the third or fourth day of the fever, and ought not then to be performed, unleſs in the moſt urgent circumſtances.

The blood may be many ways attenuated without letting it off. There are likewiſe many things that may be done to eaſe the pain of the ſide beſides bleeding. Thus, after the firſt or ſecond bleeding, emollient fomentations may be applied to the part affected. Theſe may be made by boiling a handful of the flowers of elder, camomile, and common mallows, or any other ſoft vegetables, in a proper quantity of water. The herbs may be either put into a flannel bag, and applied warm to the ſide, or flannels may be dipped in the decoction, afterwards wrung out, and applied to the part affected, with as much warmth as the patient can eaſily bear. As the clothes grow cool, they muſt be changed, and great care taken that the patient do not catch cold. A bladder may be filled with warm milk and water, and applied to the ſide, if the above method of fomenting be found inconvenient. Fomentations not only eaſe the pain, but relax the veſſels, and prevent the ſtagnation of the blood and other humours.

* The *volatile liniment* may be made by ſhaking together in a bottle two ounces of the oil of almonds, or olives, and one ounce of ſpirit of hartſhorn, till they be perfectly united. About a tea-ſpoonful of this may be rubbed upon the ſide, with a warm hand, three or four times a day.

mours. The ſide may likewiſe be frequently rubbed with a little of the volatile liniment *.

Some recommend dry applications to the affected ſide, as burnt oats, toaſted bread, &c. But theſe, though they may be uſeful, are not ſo proper as moiſt ones. Could it be conducted with ſafety, we would recommend putting the patient into a bath of warm milk and water, in which emollient vegetables had been boiled; but as this cannot always be obtained, and might ſometimes endanger the patient's catching cold, we ſhall recommend what is in every perſon's power, *viz.* to apply ſoft poultices, or cataplaſms to the part affected. Theſe may be made of wheat-bread and milk, ſoftened with oil or freſh butter.

Leaves of various plants might likewiſe be applied to the patient's ſide with advantage. I have often ſeen great benefit from young cabbage-leaves applied warm to the ſide in a pleuriſy. Theſe not only relax the parts, but likewiſe draw off a little moiſture, and may prevent the neceſſity of bliſtering plaſters; which, however, when other things fail, muſt be applied.

If the ſtitch continues after repeated bleedings, fomentations, *&c.* a bliſtering plaſter muſt be laid upon the part affected, and ſuffered to remain for two days. This not only procures a diſcharge from the ſide, but attenuates the humours, and by that means aſſiſts in removing the cauſe of the diſeaſe. To prevent a ſtranguary when the bliſ-

tering

tering plaſter is on, the patient may drink freely of the arabic emulſion *.

If the patient be coſtive, a clyſter of thin water gruel, or of barley-water, in which a handful of mallows, or any other emollient vegetable, has been boiled, may be daily adminiſtered. This will not only empty the bowels; but have the effect of a warm fomentation applied to the inferior viſcera, which will help to make a derivation from the breaſt.

The expectoration, or ſpitting, may be promoted by ſharp, oily, and mucilaginous medicines. For this purpoſe, an ounce of the oxymel, or the vinegar of ſquills, may be added to ſix ounces of the pectoral decoction, and two table-ſpoonfuls of it taken every two hours.

Should the ſquill diſagree with the ſtomach, two ounces of the oil of ſweet almonds, or oil of olives, and two ounces of the ſyrup of violets, may be mixed with as much ſugar-candy powdered, as will make an electuary of the conſiſtence of honey. The patient may take a tea-ſpoonful of this frequently, when the cough is

* The arabic emulſion is prepared in the following manner: Take an ounce of ſweet almonds blanched, and beat them well in a mortar, with an equal quantity of fine ſugar. Then diſſolve half an ounce of gum-arabic in an Engliſh quart of barley-water warm; let it ſtand till cool, and afterwards pour it by little and little upon the almonds and ſugar, continually rubbing them till the liquor becomes uniformly white or milky. Afterwards ſtrain it, and let the patient uſe it for ordinary drink.

trouble-

troubleſome. Should oily medicines happen to prove nauſeous, which is ſometimes the caſe, a ſolution of gum ammoniac in barley-water may be adminiſtered *.

If the patient does not perſpire, but has a burning heat upon his ſkin, and paſſes very little water, ſome ſmall doſes of purified nitre and camphire will be of uſe. Two drams of the former may be rubbed with five or ſix grains of the latter in a mortar, and the whole divided into ſix doſes, one of which may be taken every five or ſix hours, in a little of the patient's ordinary drink.

We ſhall only mention one medicine more, which ſome indeed reckon almoſt a ſpecific in the pleuriſy, *viz.* the decoction of the ſeneka rattle-ſnake root †. After bleeding, and other evacuations, have been premiſed, the patient may take two, three, or four table-ſpoonfuls of this decoction, according as his ſtomach will bear it, three or four times a-day. If it ſhould occaſion vomiting, two or three ounces of ſimple cinnamon-

* The ſolution of gum ammoniac is made in the following manner: Let two drams of gum ammoniac be well rubbed in a mortar, and an Engliſh pint of barley-water gradually poured upon it till it be quite diſſolved. Three or four ounces of ſimple pennyroyal-water may be added to the above quantity, and two table-ſpoonfuls of it taken three or four times a day.

† This decoction is made by boiling an ounce of ſeneka rattle ſnake root in an Engliſh pint and a half of water, till one-third part of the water be conſumed; afterwards let it be ſtrained.

water may be mixed with the quantity of decoction here directed, or it may be taken in ſmaller doſes. As this medicine promotes perſpiration and urine, and likewiſe keeps the belly eaſy, it bids fair for anſwering many of the intentions of cure in a pleuriſy, or any other inflammation of the breaſt.

No one will imagine, that theſe medicines are all to be uſed at the ſame time. We have mentioned different things, on purpoſe that people may have it in their power to chuſe; and likewiſe, that when one cannot be obtained, they may make uſe of another. Different medicines are no doubt neceſſary in the different periods of a diſorder; and where one fails of ſucceſs, or diſagrees with the patient, it will be proper to try another.

What is called the criſis, or height of the fever, is ſometimes attended with very alarming ſymptoms, as difficulty of breathing, an irregular pulſe, convulſive motions, *&c.* Theſe are apt to fright the attendants, and induce them to do improper things, as bleeding the patient, giving him ſtrong ſtimulating medicines, or the like. But they are only the ſtruggles of nature to overcome the diſeaſe, in which ſhe ought to be aſſiſted by plenty of diluting drink, which is then peculiarly neceſſary. If the patient's ſtrength however be much exhauſted by the diſeaſe, it may be neceſſary at this time to ſupport him with frequent ſmal draughts of wine-whey, ſmall negus, or the like.

When the pain and fever are gone, it will be proper, after the patient has recovered ſufficient ſtrength, to give him ſome gentle purges, as thoſe directed towards the end of the acute continual fever. He ought likewiſe to uſe a light diet of eaſy digeſtion, and his drink ſhould be butter-milk, whey, and other things of a cleanſing nature.

Of the BASTARD PLEURISY.

That ſpecies of pleuriſy which is called the *baſtard* or *ſpurious*, generally goes off by keeping warm for a few days, drinking plenty of diluting liquors, and obſerving a proper regimen.

It is known by a dry cough, a quick pulſe, and a difficulty of lying on the affected ſide, which laſt does not always happen in the true pleuriſy. Sometimes indeed this diſeaſe proves obſtinate, and requires bleeding, with cupping, and ſcarifications of the part affected. Theſe, together with the uſe of nitrous, and other cooling medicines, ſeldom fail to effect a cure.

Of the PARAPHRENITIS.

The *paraphrenitis*, or inflammation of the diaphragm, is ſo nearly connected with the pleuriſy, and reſembles it ſo much in the manner of treatment, that it is ſcarce neceſſary to conſider it as a ſeparate diſeaſe.

It is attended with a very acute fever, and an extreme pain of the part affected, which is generally augmented by coughing, ſneezing, drawing in the breath, taking food, going to ſtool, making water, &c. Hence the patient breathes quick, and draws in his bowels to prevent the motion of the diaphragm; is reſtleſs, anxious, has a dry cough, a hiccup, and often a delirium. A convulſive laugh, or rather a kind of involuntary grin, is no uncommon ſymptom of this diſeaſe.

Every method muſt be taken to prevent a ſuppuration, as it is impoſſible to ſave the patient's life when this happens. The regimen and medicine are in all reſpects the ſame as in the pleuriſy. We ſhall only add, that in this diſeaſe emollient clyſters are peculiarly uſeful, as they relax the bowels, and by that means draw the humours from the part affected.

CHAP.

CHAP. XVII.

OF A PERIPNEUMONY, OR INFLAMMATION OF THE LUNGS.

AS this diſeaſe affects an organ which is abſolutely neceſſary to life, it muſt always be attended with danger. Perſons who abound with thick blood, whoſe fibres are tenſe and rigid, who feed upon groſs aliment, and drink ſtrong viſcid liquors, are moſt liable to this diſeaſe. It is generally fatal to thoſe who have a flat breaſt, or narrow cheſt, and to ſuch as are afflicted with an aſthma, eſpecially in the decline of life. Sometimes the inflammation reaches to one lobe of the lungs only, at other times the whole of that organ is affected; in which caſe the diſeaſe can hardly fail to prove fatal.

WHEN the diſeaſe proceeds from a viſcid pituitous matter, obſtructing the veſſels of the lungs, it is called a *ſpurious* or *baſtard peripneumony*. When it ariſes from a thin acrid defluction on the lungs, it is denominated a *catarrhal peripneumony*, &c.

CAUSES.——An inflammation of the lungs is ſometimes a primary diſeaſe, and ſometimes it is the conſequence of other diſeaſes, as a quinſey,

a pleuriſy, *&c.* It ariſes from the ſame cauſes as the pleuriſy, *viz.* an obſtructed perſpiration from cold, wet clothes, *&c.*; or from an increaſed circulation of the blood by violent exerciſe, the uſe of ſpiceries, ardent ſpirits, and ſuch like. The pleuriſy and peripneumony are often complicated; in which caſe the diſeaſe is called a *pleuro-peripneumony*.

SYMPTOMS.——Moſt of the ſymptoms of a pleuriſy likewiſe attend an inflammation of the lungs; only in the latter the pulſe is more ſoft, and the pain leſs acute; but the difficulty of breathing, and oppreſſion of the breaſt, are generally greater.

REGIMEN.—— As the regimen and medicine are in all reſpects the ſame in the true peripneumony as in the pleuriſy, we ſhall not here repeat them, but refer the reader to the treatment of that diſeaſe. It may not however be improper to add, that the aliment ought to be more ſlender and thin in this than in any other inflammatory diſeaſe. The learned Dr. Arbuthnot aſſerts, that even common whey is ſufficient to ſupport the patient, and that decoctions of barley, and infuſions of fennel-roots in warm water with milk, are the moſt proper both for drink and nouriſhment. He likewiſe recommends the ſteam of warm water taken in by the breath, which ſerves as a kind of internal fomentation, and helps to attenuate the impacted humours.

humours. If the patient has looſe ſtools, but is not weakened by them, they are not to be ſtopped, but rather promoted by the uſe of emollient clyſters.

It has already been obſerved, that the *ſpurious* or *baſtard* peripneumony is occaſioned by a viſcid pituitous matter obſtructing the veſſels of the lungs. It commonly attacks the old, infirm, and phlegmatic, in winter or wet ſeaſons.

The patient at the beginning is cold and hot by turns, has a ſmall quick pulſe, feels a ſenſe of weight upon his breaſt, breathes with difficulty, and ſometimes complains of a pain and giddineſs of his head. His urine is commonly pale, and his colour very little changed.

The diet in this, as well as in the true peripneumony, muſt be very ſlender, as weak broths ſharpened with the juice of orange or lemon, *&c.* His drink may be thin water-gruel ſweetened with honey, or a decoction of the roots of fennel, liquorice, and quick graſs. An ounce of each of theſe may be boiled in three Engliſh pints of water to a quart, and ſharpened with a little currant-jelly, or the like.

Bleeding and purging are generally proper at the beginning of this diſeaſe; but if the patient's ſpittle be pretty thick, or well concocted, neither of them are neceſſary. It will be ſufficient to aſſiſt the expectoration by ſome

of the ſoft balſamic medicines, recommended for that purpoſe in the pleuriſy. Bliſtering plaſters have generally a good effect, and ought to be applied pretty early. They may either be applied to the neck or ancles, or both, if neceſſary.

If the patient does not ſpit, he muſt be bled according as his ſtrength will permit, and have a gentle purge adminiſtered. Afterwards his belly may be kept open by clyſters, and the expectoration promoted, by taking every four hours two table-ſpoonfuls of the ſolution of gum-ammoniac, recommended in the pleuriſy.

When an inflammation of the breaſt does not yield to bleeding, bliſtering, and other evacuations, it commonly ends in a ſuppuration, which is more or leſs dangerous, according to the part where it is ſituated. When this happens in the pleura, it ſometimes breaks outwardly, and the matter is diſcharged by the wound.

When the ſuppuration happens within the ſubſtance or body of the lungs, the matter may be diſcharged by expectoration; but if the matter floats in the cavity of the breaſt, between the pleura and the lungs, it can only be diſcharged by an inciſion made betwixt the ribs.

If the patient's ſtrength does not return after the inflammation is to all appearance removed; if his pulſe continues quick though ſoft, his breathing difficult and oppreſſed; if he has cold

ſhiverings

ſhiverings at times, his cheeks fluſhed, his lips dry; and if he complains of thirſt, and want of appetite; there is reaſon to fear a ſuppuration, and that a phthiſis or conſumption of the lungs will enſue. We ſhall therefore next proceed to conſider the proper treatment of that diſeaſe.

CHAP.

CHAP. XVIII.

OF CONSUMPTIONS.

A CONSUMPTION is a wafting or decay of the whole body from an ulcer, tubercles, or concretion of the lungs, an empyema, a nervous atrophy, *&c.*

DR. Arbuthnot obſerves, that in his time conſumptions made up above one-tenth part of the bills of mortality in and about London. There is reaſon to believe they have rather increaſed ſince; and we know for certain, that they are not leſs fatal in ſome other towns in England than in London.

YOUNG perſons betwixt the age of fifteen and thirty, of a ſlender make, long neck, high ſhoulders, and flat breaſts, are moſt liable to this diſeaſe.

CONSUMPTIONS prevail more in England than in any other part of the world, owing perhaps to the great uſe of animal food and ſtrong liquors, the general application to ſedentary employments, and the great quantity of pit-coal which is there burnt; to which we may add the perpetual changes in the atmoſphere, or variableneſs of the weather.

CAUSES.—It has already been obſerved, that an inflammation of the breaſt often ends in an im-

impoſthume

posthume: Consequently whatever dispose people to this disease must likewise be considered as a cause of consumptions.

Other diseases, by vitiating the humours, may likewise occasion consumptions; as the scurvy, the scrophula or king's evil, the venereal disease, the asthma, small pox, measles, &c.

As this disease is seldom cured, we shall endeavour to point out its causes the more particularly, in order that people may be enabled to avoid it. These are:

——Want of exercise. Hence it comes to pass, that this disease is so common amongst the inhabitants of great towns, who follow sedentary employments, and likewise amongst the rich, who are not under the necessity of labouring for their bread.

—— Confined or unwholesome air. Air which stagnates, or is impregnated with the fumes of metals or minerals, is extremely hurtful to the lungs, and often corrodes the tender vessels of that necessary organ.

—— Violent passions, exertions, or affections of the mind; as grief, disappointment, anxiety, or close application to the study of abstruse arts or sciences, &c.

—— Great evacuations; as sweating, diarrhœas, diabetes, excessive venery, the fluor albus, an over-discharge of the menstrual flux, giving suck too long, &c.

—— The

—— The ſudden ſtoppage of cuſtomary evacuations; as the bleeding piles, ſweating of the feet, bleeding at the noſe, the menſes, iſſues, ulcers, or eruptions of any kind.

—— Making a ſudden tranſition from a hot to a very cold climate, change of apparel, or whatever greatly leſſens the perſpiration.

—— Frequent and exceſſive debaucheries. Late watching, and drinking ſtrong liquors, which generally go together, can hardly fail to deſtroy the lungs. Hence the *bon companion* often falls a ſacrifice to this diſeaſe.

—— Infection. Conſumptions are often caught by ſleeping with the diſeaſed; for which reaſon this ſhould be carefully avoided. It cannot be of great benefit to the ſick, and muſt hurt thoſe in health.

—— Occupations in life. Thoſe artificers who ſit much, and are conſtantly leaning forward, or preſſing upon the ſtomach and breaſt, as cutlers, taylors, ſhoemakers, *&c.* often die of conſumptions.

—— Cold. More conſumptive patients date the beginning of their diſorders from wet feet, damp beds, night-air, wet clothes, and ſuch like, than from all other cauſes.

Sharp, ſaline, and aromatic aliments, which heat and inflame the blood, are likewiſe frequently the cauſe of conſumptions.

We ſhall only add, that this diſeaſe is often owing to an hereditary taint; in which caſe it is generally incurable.

SYMPTOMS.

SYMPTOMS.——This diſeaſe generally begins with a dry cough, which often continues for ſome months. If a diſpoſition to vomit after eating be excited by it, there is ſtill greater reaſon to fear an approaching conſumption. The patient complains of a more than uſual degree of heat, a pain and oppreſſion of the breaſt, eſpecially after motion; his ſpittle is of a ſaltiſh taſte, and ſometimes mixed with blood. He is apt to be ſad; his appetite is bad, and his thirſt great. There is generally a quick, ſoft, ſmall pulſe; though ſometimes the pulſe is pretty full, and rather hard. Theſe are the common ſymptoms of a beginning conſumption.

AFTERWARDS the patient begins to ſpit a greeniſh, white, or bloody matter. His body is extenuated by the hectic fever and colliquative ſweats, which mútually ſucceed one another, *viz.* the one towards night, and the other in the morning. A looſeneſs, and an exceſſive diſcharge of urine, are often troubleſome ſymptoms at this time, and greatly weaken the patient. There is a burning heat in the palms of the hands, and the face generally fluſhes after eating; the fingers become remarkably ſmall, the nails are bent inwards, and the hairs fall off.

AT laſt the ſwelling of the feet and legs, the total loſs of ſtrength, the ſinking of the eyes, the difficulty of ſwallowing, and the coldneſs of the extremities, ſhew the immediate approach of death, which however the patient ſeldom believes

to

to be ſo near. Such is the uſual progreſs of this fatal diſeaſe, which, if not early checked, commonly ſets all medicine at defiance.

REGIMEN.——On the firſt appearance of a conſumption, if the patient lives in a large town, or any place where the air is confined, he ought immediately to quit it, and to make choice of a ſituation in the country, where the air is pure, dry and free. Here he muſt not remain inactive, but take every day as much exerciſe as he can bear.

The beſt method of taking exerciſe is to ride on horſeback, as this gives the body a great deal of motion without much fatigue. Such as cannot bear this kind of exerciſe, muſt make uſe of a machine. A long journey, as it amuſes the mind by a continual change of objects, is greatly preferable to riding the ſame ground over and over. Care however muſt be taken to avoid catching cold from wet clothes, damp beds, or the like. The patient ought always to finiſh his ride in the morning, or at leaſt before dinner; otherwiſe it will oftener do harm than good. At any rate, the patient muſt ride; his life depends upon it; and it is almoſt an infallible remedy, if begun in time, and duly perſiſted in.

It is pity thoſe who attend the ſick ſeldom recommend riding in this diſeaſe, till the patient is either unable to bear it, or the malady is become incurable. Patients are likewiſe apt to trifle with every thing that is in their own power. They cannot

cannot ſee how one of the common actions of life ſhould prove a remedy in an obſtinate diſeaſe, and therefore they reject it, while they greedily hunt after relief from medicine, merely becauſe they do not underſtand it.

Those who have ſtrength and courage to undertake a pretty long voyage, may expect great advantage from it. This, to my knowledge, has frequently cured a conſumption after the patient was, to all appearance, in the laſt ſtage of that diſeaſe, and where medicine had proved ineffectual. Hence it is reaſonable to conclude, that if a voyage were undertaken in due time, it would ſeldom fail to perform a cure.

Such as try this method of cure ought to carry as much freſh proviſions along with them as will ſerve for the whole time they are at ſea. As milk is not to be obtained in this ſituation, they ought to live upon fruits and the broth of chickens, or other young animals which can be kept alive on board. It is ſcarce neceſſary to add, that ſuch voyages ſhould be undertaken, if poſſible, in the mildeſt ſeaſon, and that they ought to be towards a warmer climate.

Those who have not courage for a long voyage may travel into a more ſouthern climate, as the ſouth of France, Spain, or Portugal; and if they find the air of theſe countries agree with them, they ſhould continue there, at leaſt till their health be confirmed.

NEXT to proper air and exercise, we would recommend a due attention to the diet. The patient must eat nothing that is either heating or hard of digestion, and his drink must be of a soft and cooling nature. All the diet must be calculated to lessen the acrimony of the humours, and to nourish and support the patient. For this purpose he must keep chiefly to the use of vegetables and milk. Milk alone is of more value in this disease than the whole *materia medica*.

ASSES milk is generally reckoned preferable to any other; but it cannot always be obtained; besides, it is generally taken in a very small quantity; whereas, to produce any considerable effects, it ought in a manner to make the principal part of the patient's food. It is hardly to be expected, that a gill or two of asses milk, drank in the space of twenty-four hours, should be able to produce any considerable change in the humours of an adult; and when people do not perceive its effects soon, they lose hope, and so leave it off. Hence it comes to pass that this medicine, however valuable, very seldom performs a cure. The reason is obvious; it is commonly used too late, is taken in too small quantities, and is not duly persisted in.

I HAVE known very extraordinary effects from asses milk in obstinate coughs, which threatened a consumption of the lungs; and do verily believe, if used at this period, that it would seldom fail; but if it be delayed till an ulcer is formed, which

which is generally the caſe, how can it be expected to ſucceed?

Asses milk ought to be drank, if poſſible, in its natural warmth, and, by a grown perſon, in the quantity of half an Engliſh pint at a time. Inſtead of taking this quantity night and morning only, the patient ought to take it four times, or at leaſt thrice a-day, and to eat a little light bread along with it, ſo as to make it a kind of meal.

If the milk ſhould happen to purge, it may be mixed with old conſerve of roſes. When that cannot be obtained, the powder of crabs claws may be uſed in its ſtead. Aſſes milk is uſually ordered to be drank warm in bed; but as it generally throws the patient into a ſweat when taken in this way, it would perhaps be better to give it after he riſes.

Some extraordinary cures in conſumptive caſes have been performed by women's milk. Could this be obtained in ſufficient quantity, we would recommend it preferably to any other. It is better if the patient can ſuck it from the breaſt than to drink it afterwards. I knew a man who was reduced to ſuch a degree of weakneſs in a conſumption, as not to be able to turn himſelf in bed. His wife was at that time giving ſuck, and the child happening to die, he ſucked her breaſts, not with a view to reap any advantage from the milk, but to make her eaſy. Finding himſelf however greatly benefited by it, he continued to ſuck her

till he became perfectly well, and is at present a a ſtrong and healthy man.

Some prefer butter-milk to any other, and it certainly is a very valuable medicine, if the ſtomach be able to bear it. It does not agree with every perſon at firſt; and is therefore often laid aſide without a ſufficient trial. It ſhould at firſt be taken ſparingly, and the quantity gradually increaſed, until it comes to be almoſt the ſole food. I never knew it ſucceed unleſs where the patient almoſt entirely lived upon it.

Cows milk is moſt readily obtained of any, and though it be not ſo eaſily digeſted as that of aſſes or mares, it may be rendered lighter by adding to it an equal quantity of barley-water, or allowing it to ſtand for ſome hours, and afterwards taking off the cream. If it ſhould notwithſtanding prove heavy on the ſtomach, a table-ſpoonful of rum or brandy, and a bit of loaf-ſugar, may be put into half an Engliſh pint.

It is not to be wondered, that milk ſhould, for ſome time, diſagree with a ſtomach that has not been accuſtomed to digeſt any thing but fleſh and ſtrong liquors, which is the caſe with many of thoſe who fall into conſumptions. We do not however adviſe thoſe who have been accuſtomed to animal food and ſtrong liquors, to leave them off all at once. This might be dangerous. It will be neceſſary for ſuch to eat a little once a day of the fleſh of ſome young animal, or rather to uſe the broth made of chickens, veal, lamb, or

or ſuch like. They ought likewiſe to drink a little wine made into negas, or diluted with twice or thrice its quantity of water, and to make it gradually weaker till they can leave it off altogether.

THESE muſt be uſed only as preparatives to a a diet conſiſting chiefly of milk and vegetables, which the ſooner the patient can be brought to bear, the better. Rice and milk, or barley and milk boiled, with a little ſugar, is very proper food. Ripe fruits roaſted, baked, or boiled, are likewiſe proper, as gooſe or currant-berry tarts, apples roaſted, or boiled in milk, *&c.* The jellies, conſerves, and preſerves, *&c.* of ripe ſub-acid fruits, ought to be eat plentifully, as the jelly of currants, conſerve of roſes, preſerved plums, cherries, *&c.*

WHOLESOME air, proper exerciſe, and a diet conſiſting chiefly of theſe and other vegetables, with milk, is the only courſe that can be depended on in a beginning conſumption. If the patient has ſtrength and ſufficient reſolution to perſiſt in this courſe, he will ſeldom be diſappointed of a cure.

IN a populous town in England *, where conſumptions are very common, I have frequently ſeen conſumptive patients, who had been ſent to the country with orders to ride, and live upon milk and vegetables, return in a few months quite plump, and free from any complaint. This

* Sheffield.

indeed was not always the caſe, eſpecially when the diſeaſe was hereditary, or far advanced; but it was the only method in which ſucceſs was to be expected: where it failed, I never knew medicine ſucceed.

If the patient's ſtrength and ſpirits flag, he muſt be ſupported by ſtrong broths, jellies, &c. Some recommend ſhell fiſh in this diſorder, and with ſome reaſon, as they are very nouriſhing and reſtorative *. All the food and drink ought however to be taken in ſmall quantities, leſt an overcharge of freſh chyle ſhould oppreſs the lungs, and too much accelerate the circulation of the blood.

The patient's mind ought to be kept as eaſy and cheerful as poſſible. Conſumptions are often occaſioned, and always aggravated, by a melancholy caſt of mind; for which reaſon, muſic, cheerful company, and every thing that inſpires mirth, are highly beneficial. The patient ought ſeldom to be left alone, as brooding over his calamities is ſure to render them worſe.

MEDICINE.——Though the cure of this diſeaſe depends chiefly upon regimen and the pa-

* I have often known conſumptive patients, where the ſymptoms were not violent, reap great benefit from the uſe of oyſters. They generally eat them raw, and drank the juice along with them. They likewiſe eat a little bread and drank a glaſs of wine or draught of warm porter after them. They ſhould be eat an hour or two before dinner; but may be taken at any other time of the day, if it be more convenient.

tient's own endeavours, yet we ſhall mention a few things which may be of ſervice in relieving ſome of the more violent ſymptoms.

In the firſt ſtage of a conſumption, the cough may ſometimes be appeaſed by bleeding; and the expectoration may be promoted by the following medicines. Take freſh ſquills, gum-ammoniac, and powdered cardamum ſeeds, of each a quarter of an ounce; beat them together in a mortar, and if the maſs proves too hard for pills, a little of any kind of ſyrup may be added to it. This may be formed into pills of a moderate ſize, and four, or five of them taken twice or thrice a-day, according as the patient's ſtomach will bear them.

The lac ammoniacum, or milk of gum-ammoniac, as it is called, is likewiſe a proper medicine in this ſtage of the diſeaſe. It may be prepared and uſed as directed in the Pleuriſy.

A syrup made of equal parts of lemon-juice, fine honey, and ſugar-candy may likewiſe be uſed. Four ounces of each of theſe may be ſimmered together in a ſauce-pan, over a gentle fire, and a table ſpoonful of it taken at any time when the cough is troubleſome.

It is common in this ſtage of the diſeaſe to load the patient's ſtomach with oily and balſamic medicines. Theſe, inſtead of removing the cauſe of the diſeaſe, tend rather to increaſe it, by heating the blood, while they pall the appetite, relax the ſolids, and prove every way hurtful to the pa-

tient. Whatever is uſed for removing the cough, beſides riding and other proper regimen, ought to be medicines of a ſharp and cleanſing nature; as oxymel, ſyrup of lemon, &c. *

For the patient's drink, we would recommend infuſions of the bitter plants, as ground-ivy, the leſſer centaury, camomile flowers, or water-trefoil. Theſe infuſions may be drank at pleaſure. They ſtrengthen the ſtomach, promote digeſtion, rectify the blood, and at the ſame time anſwer all the purpoſes of dilution, and quench thirſt much better than things that are luſcious or ſweet. But if the patient ſpits blood, he ought to uſe, for his ordinary drink, infuſions or decoctions of the vulnerary roots, plants, &c. †

There are many other mucilaginous plants and ſeeds, of a healing and agglutinating nature, from which decoctions or infuſions may be prepared with the ſame intention; as the orches, the quince-

* Acids ſeem to have peculiarly good effects in this diſeaſe; they both tend to quench the patient's thirſt and to cool the blood. The vegetable acids, as apples, oranges, lemons, &c. appear to be the moſt proper. We have known patients ſuck the juice of ſeveral lemons every day with manifeſt advantage, and would, for this reaſon, recommend acid vegetables to be taken in as great quantity as the ſtomach will bear them.

† Take an ounce of comfrey-root, of liquorice and marſhmallow roots, each half an ounce. Boil them in two Engliſh quarts of water to one. A tea-ſpoonful of the acid elixir of vitriol may be added to this decoction when cold, and a tea-cupful of it taken four or five times a-day.

ſeed,

ſeed, coltsfoot, linſeed, ſarſaparilla, &c. It is not neceſſary to mention the different ways in which theſe may be prepared. Simple infuſion or boiling is all that is neceſſary, and the doſe may be at diſcretion.

The conſerve of roſes is here peculiarly proper. It may either be put into the decoction above preſcribed, or eat by itſelf. No benefit is to be expected from trifling doſes of this medicine. I never knew it of any ſervice unleſs where three or four ounces at leaſt were uſed daily for a conſiderable time. In this way I have ſeen it produce very extraordinary effects, and would recommend it wherever there is a diſcharge of blood from the lungs.

When the ſpitting up of groſs matter, oppreſſion of the breaſt, and the hectic ſymptoms ſhew that an impoſthume is formed in the lungs, we would recommend the Peruvian bark, that being the only drug which has any chance to counteract the general tendency which the humours then have to putrefaction.

An ounce of the bark in powder may be divided into eighteen or twenty doſes, of which one may be taken every three hours through the day, in a little ſyrup, or a cup of the patient's ordinary drink.

If the bark ſhould happen to purge, it may be made into an electuary, with the conſerve of roſes, thus: Take old conſerve of roſes a quarter of a pound, Peruvian bark in powder an ounce, ſyrup

of orange or lemon, as much as will make it of the conſiſtence of honey. This quantity will ſerve the patient four or five days, and may be repeated as there is occaſion.

Such as cannot take the bark in ſubſtance, may infuſe it in cold water. This ſeems to be the beſt menſtruum for extracting the virtues of that drug. Half an ounce of bark in powder may be infuſed for twenty-four hours in half an Engliſh pint of water. Afterwards let it be paſſed through a fine ſtrainer, and an ordinary tea-cupful of it taken three or four times a-day.

We would not recommend the bark while there are any ſymptoms of an inflammation of the breaſt; but when it is certainly known, that matter is collected there, it is ſurely one of the beſt medicines which can be uſed. Few patients indeed have reſolution enough to give the bark a fair trial at this period of the diſeaſe, otherwiſe we have reaſon to believe, that great benefit might be reapt from it.

When it is evident that there is an impoſthume in the breaſt, and the matter can neither be ſpit up nor carried off by abſorption, the patient muſt endeavour to make it break inwardly, by drawing in the ſteams of warm water or vinegar with his breath, coughing, laughing, or bawling aloud, *&c.* When it happens to burſt within the lungs, the matter may be diſcharged by the mouth. Sometimes indeed the burſting of the vomica occaſions immediate death, by ſuffocating the patient.

patient. When the quantity of matter is great, and the patient's ſtrength exhauſted, this is apt to happen. At any rate, the patient is ready to fall into a ſwoon, and ſhould have volatile ſpirits or ſalts held to his noſe.

If the matter diſcharged be thick, and the cough and breathing become eaſier, there may be ſome hopes of a cure. The diet at this time ought to be light, but reſtorative, as ſmall chicken-broths, ſago gruel, rice-milk, *&c.* the drink, butter-milk, or whey ſweetened with honey. This is likewiſe a proper time for uſing the Peruvian bark, which may be taken as directed above.

If the vomica or impoſthume ſhould diſcharge itſelf into the cavity of the breaſt, betwixt the pleura and the lungs, there is no way of getting the matter out but by an inciſion, as has already been obſerved. As this operation muſt always be performed by a ſurgeon, it is not neceſſary here to deſcribe it. We ſhall only obſerve, that it is not ſo dreadful as people are apt to imagine, and that it is the only chance the patient, in this caſe, has for his life.

A NERVOUS CONSUMPTION, is a waſting or decay of the whole body, without any conſiderable degree of fever, cough, or difficulty of breathing. It is attended with indigeſtion, weakneſs, and want of appetite, *&c.*

Those who are of a fretful temper, who indulge in ſpirituous liquors, or who breathe an unwholeſome air, are moſt liable to this diſeaſe.

We

We would chiefly recommend, for the cure of a nervous conſumption, a light and nouriſhing diet, plenty of exerciſe in a free open air, and the uſe of ſuch bitters as brace and ſtrengthen the ſtomach; as the Peruvian bark, gentian root, camomile, &c. Theſe may be infuſed in water or wine, and a glaſs of it drank frequently.

It will greatly aſſiſt the digeſtion, and promote the cure of this diſeaſe, to take twice a-day twenty or thirty drops of the elixir of vitriol in a glaſs of wine or water. The chalybeate wine is likewiſe an excellent medicine in this caſe. It ſtrengthens the ſolids, and powerfully aſſiſts nature in the preparation of good blood *.

Agreeable amuſements, cheerful company, and riding about, are, however, preferable to all medicines in this diſeaſe. For which reaſon, when the patient can afford it, we would recommend a long journey of pleaſure, as the moſt likely means to reſtore his health.

What is called a *ſymptomatic conſumption* cannot be cured without firſt removing the diſeaſe by which it is occaſioned. Thus, when a conſumption proceeds from the ſcrophula or king's evil, from the ſcurvy, the aſthma, the venereal diſeaſe, &c. a due attention muſt be paid to the malady

* The chalybeate wine is made by putting three ounces of the filings of ſteel or iron into a bottle of Rheniſh wine, and allowing it to digeſt for three weeks, frequently ſhaking the bottle: Afterwards the wine muſt be filtered for uſe. A table-ſpoonful of it may be taken twice or thrice a-day.

from

from whence it ariſes, and the regimen and medicine directed accordingly.

When *exceſſive evacuations* of any kind occaſion a conſumption, they muſt not only be reſtrained, but the patient's ſtrength muſt be reſtored by gentle exerciſe, nouriſhing diet, and generous cordials, *&c.* Young and delicate mothers often fall into conſumptions, by giving ſuck too long. As ſoon as they perceive their ſtrength and appetite begin to fail, they ought immediately to wean the child, or provide another nurſe, otherwiſe they cannot expect a cure.

Before we quit this ſubject, we would earneſtly recommend it to all who wiſh to avoid conſumptions, to take as much exerciſe without doors as they can, to avoid unwholeſome air, and to ſtudy ſobriety. Conſumptions owe their preſent increaſe not a little to the faſhion of ſitting up late, eating hot ſuppers, and ſpending every evening over a bowl of hot punch, or a bottle of wine. Theſe liquors, when too freely uſed, not only hurt the digeſtion, and ſpoil the appetite, but heat and inflame the blood, and ſet the whole conſtitution on fire.

CHAP.

CHAP. XIX.

OF THE SLOW OR NERVOUS FEVER.

NERVOUS fevers have increaſed greatly of late years in this iſland, owing doubtleſs to our different manner of living, and the increaſe of ſedentary employments; as they commonly attack perſons of a weak relaxed habit, who neglect exerciſe, eat little ſolid food, ſtudy hard, or indulge in ſpirituous liquors.

CAUSES.——Nervous fevers may be occaſioned by whatever depreſſes the ſpirits, or impoveriſhes the blood; as grief, fear, anxiety, want of ſleep, intenſe thought, living on poor watery diet, unripe fruits, cucumbers, melons, muſhrooms, *&c.* They may likewiſe be occaſioned by damp, confined, or unwholeſome air. Hence they are very common in rainy ſeaſons, and prove moſt fatal to thoſe who live in dirty, low houſes, crouded ſtreets, hoſpitals, jails, or ſuch like places.

PERSONS whoſe conſtitutions have been broken by exceſſive venery, frequent ſalivations, too free an uſe of purgative medicines, or any other exceſſive evacuation, are very liable to this diſeaſe.

KEEPING on wet clothes, lying on the damp ground, exceſſive fatigue, and whatever obſtructs the

the perſpiration, or cauſes a ſpaſmodic ſtricture of the ſolids, may likewiſe occaſion nervous fevers. We ſhall only add frequent and great irregularities in diet. Too great abſtinence, as well as exceſs, is hurtful. Nothing tends ſo much to preſerve the body in a ſound ſtate as a regular diet; nor can any thing contribute more to occaſion fevers of the worſt kind than its contrary.

SYMPTOMS.——Low ſpirits, want of appetite, weakneſs, wearineſs after motion, watchfulneſs, deep ſighing, and dejection of mind, are generally the forerunners of this diſeaſe. Theſe are ſucceeded by a quick low pulſe, a dry tongue without any conſiderable thirſt, chilneſs and flushing in turns, *&c.*

After ſome time the patient complains of a giddineſs and pain of his head, has a nauſea, with reachings and vomiting; his pulſe is quick, and ſometimes intermitting; his urine pale, reſembling dead ſmall beer, and his breathing is difficult, with oppreſſion of the breaſt, and ſlight alienations of mind.

If towards the ninth, tenth, or twelfth day, the tongue becomes more moiſt, with a plentiful ſpitting, a gentle purging, or a moiſture upon the ſkin; or if a ſuppuration happens in one or both ears, or large puſtules break out about the lips and noſe, there is reaſon to hope for a favourable criſis.

But, if there be an exceſſive looſeneſs, or waſting ſweats, with frequent fainting fits; if the tongue,

tongue, when put out trembles exceſſively, and the extremities feel cold, with a fluttering or ſlow creeping pulſe; if there be a ſtarting of the tendons, an almoſt total loſs of ſight and hearing, and an involuntary diſcharge by ſtool and urine, there is great reaſon to fear that death is approaching.

REGIMEN.——It is highly neceſſary in this diſeaſe to keep the patient cool and eaſy. The leaſt motion will fatigue him, and will be apt to occaſion wearineſs, and even faintings. His mind ought not only to be kept eaſy, but ſoothed and comforted with the hopes of a ſpeedy recovery. Nothing is more hurtful in low fevers of this kind, than preſenting to the patient's imagination gloomy or frightful ideas. Theſe often occaſion nervous fevers, and it is not to be doubted but they will likewiſe aggravate them.

THE patient muſt not be kept too low. His ſtrength and ſpirits ought to be ſupported by nouriſhing diet and generous cordials. For this purpoſe his gruel, panado, or whatever food he takes, muſt be mixed with wine according as the ſymptoms may require. Pretty ſtrong wine whey, or ſmall negas ſharpened with the juice of orange or lemon, will be proper for his ordinary drink. Muſtard whey is likewiſe a very proper drink in this fever *.

WINE

* Muſtard whey is made by boiling two or three tableſpoonfuls of powdered muſtard in an Engliſh pint of milk, mixed with an equal quantity of water. After it has boiled

WINE in this diſeaſe, if it could be obtained genuine, would be almoſt the only medicine that would be neceſſary. Good wine poſſeſſes all the virtues of the cordial medicines, while it is free from many of their bad qualities. I ſay good wine; for however common this article of luxury is now become, it is rarely to be obtained genuine, eſpecially by the poor, who are obliged to purchaſe it in ſmall quantities.

I HAVE often ſeen patients in low nervous fevers where the pulſe could hardly be felt, with a conſtant delirium, coldneſs of the extremities, and almoſt every other mortal ſymptom, recover by uſing, in whey, gruel, and negas, a bottle of ſtrong wine every day. Good wine is not only the moſt proper cordial, but ſeems alſo to be an excellent antiſpaſmodic medicine; conſequently muſt be highly proper in all diſeaſes ariſing from a poor vapid ſtate of the bload, and a ſpaſmodic ſtricture of the ſolids.

IN a word, the great aim in this diſeaſe is to ſupport the patient's ſpirits, by giving him frequently ſmall quantities of the above, or other drinks of a warm and cordial nature. He is not however to be over-heated either with liquor or

boiled ſome time, a few ſpoonfuls of wine may be added to it. This will both make the curd ſeparate more perfectly, and render the whey more cordial. It muſt be ſtrained, and a tea-cupful of it given frequently for the patient's ordinary drink. This is not only a very proper drink, but alſo an excellent medicine.

clothes;

clothes; and his food ought to be light, and given in ſmall quantities.

MEDICINE.——Where a nauſea, load, and ſickneſs at ſtomach prevail at the beginning of the fever, it will be neceſſary to give the patient a gentle vomit. Fifteen or twenty grains of ipecacoanha in fine powder, will generally anſwer this purpoſe very well. This may be repeated any time before the third or fourth day, if the above ſymptoms continue. Vomits not only clean the ſtomach, but, by the general ſhock which they give, promote the perſpiration, and have many other excellent effects in ſlow fevers, where there are no ſigns of inflammation, and nature wants rouſing.

Such as dare not venture upon a vomit, may clean the bowels by a ſmall doſe of Turkey rhubarb, or an infuſion of ſenna and manna.

In all fevers, the great point is to regulate the ſymptoms, ſo as to prevent them from going to either extreme. Thus, in fevers of the inflammatory kind, where the force of the circulation is too great, or the blood denſe, and the fibres too rigid, bleeding and other evacuations are neceſſary. But where nature flags, where the blood is vapid and poor, and the ſolids relaxed, there the lancet is to be avoided. Hence bleeding is never to be permitted in nervous fevers unleſs there be evident ſigns of inflammation, which is very ſeldom the caſe.

It is the more neceſſary to caution people againſt bleeding in this diſeaſe, as there is generally at the beginning an univerſal ſtricture upon the veſſels, which even to the patient himſelf often gives the idea of a plethora, or too great a quantity of blood. I have known even ſome of the profeſſion deceived by their own feelings in this reſpect, ſo far as to inſiſt upon being bled, when it was evident that the operation was improper *.

Though bleeding be improper in this diſeaſe, yet bliſtering is highly neceſſary. Bliſtering plaſters may be applied at all times of the fever with great advantage; we would however adviſe people not to make too free with them at the beginning, leſt there ſhould be more occaſion for them afterwards. If the patient be delirious, he ought to be bliſtered on the neck, and it will be the ſafeſt courſe, while the fever continues, as ſoon as the diſcharge occaſioned by one bliſtering plaſter abates, to apply another ſomewhere elſe, and by that means keep up a continual ſucceſſion of them till the patient be out of danger.

* I remember to have attended an apothecary in a nervous fever, who at the beginning was ſo fully perſuaded of the exiſtence of a plethora, and the neceſſity of bleeding, that when I objected to it, he told me he was ſo certain of the neceſſity of that operation from his own feelings, that if it was not performed he could not live. He was accordingly bled, but was ſoon convinced of his error. The blood ſhewed no ſigns of inflammation, and he was remarkably worſe after the operation.

I HAVE been more ſenſible of the advantage of bliſtering in this than in any other diſeaſe. It not only promotes the circulation by ſtimulating the ſolids, but likewiſe occaſions a continual diſcharge, which may in ſome meaſure ſupply the want of critical evacuations, which ſeldom happen in this kind of fever.

IF the patient be coſtive through the courſe of the diſeaſe, it will be neceſſary to procure a ſtool, by giving him every other day a clyſter of milk and water, with a little ſugar, to which may be added a ſpoonful of common ſalt, if the above does not operate.

SHOULD a violent looſeneſs come on, it may be checked, by giving the patient frequently a ſmall quantity of Venice treacle, or any thing that will promote the perſpiration.

A miliary eruption ſometimes breaks out about the ninth or tenth day of this fever. As this eruption is often critical, great care ſhould be taken not to retard nature's operation in this particular. The eruption ought neither to be checked by bleeding nor other evacuations, nor puſhed out by a hot regimen; but the patient ſhould be ſupported by gentle cordials as wine whey, ſmall negas, ſago-gruel with a little wine, and ſuch like. He ought not to be kept too warm; yet a kindly breathing ſweat ſhould by no means be checked.

THOUGH bliſtering and the uſe of cordial liquors are the only things to be depended on in this kind of fever, yet, for thoſe who may chuſe to

to uſe them, we ſhall mention one or two of the forms of medicine which are commonly preſcribed in it *.

In deſperate caſes, where the hiccup and ſtarting of the tendons have already come on, we have ſometimes ſeen extraordinary effects from large doſes of muſk frequently exhibited. This is doubtleſs a great antiſpaſmodic, and may be given to the quantity of a ſcruple three or four times a-day. Sometimes it may be proper to add to the muſk a few grains of camphire, and ſalt of hartſhorn, as theſe tend to promote perſpiration and urine. Thus fifteen grains of muſk, with three grains of camphire, and ſix grains of ſalt of hartſhorn, may be made into a bolus with a little ſyrup and given as above.

If the fever ſhould happen to intermit, which it frequently does towards the decline, or if the patient's ſtrength ſhould be waſted with colliquative ſweats, *&c.* it will be neceſſary to give him the Peruvian bark. Half a dram, or a whole

* When the patient is low, ten grains of Virginian ſnake-root, and the ſame quantity of contrayerva root, with five grains of Ruſſian caſtor, all in fine powder, may be made into a bolus with a little of the cordial confection, or ſyrup of ſaffron. One of theſe may be taken every four or five hours.

The following powder may be uſed for the ſame intention. Take wild Valerian root in powder one ſcruple, ſaffron and caſtor each four grains. Mix theſe by rubbing them together in a mortar, and give one in a cup of wine whey three or four times a-day.

dram, if the patient's ſtomach will bear it, of the bark in fine powder, may be given four or five times a-day, in a glaſs of red port or claret wine. Should the bark in ſubſtance not ſit eaſy on the ſtomach, an ounce of it in powder may be infuſed in a bottle of Liſbon or Rheniſh wine, for two or three days, afterwards it may be ſtrained, and a glaſs of it taken frequently *.

Some give the bark in this and other fevers, where there are no ſymptoms of inflammation, without any regard to the remiſſion or intermiſſion of the fever. How far future obſervations may tend to eſtabliſh this practice we cannot pretend to ſay; but we have reaſon to believe that the bark is a very univerſal febrifuge, and that it may be adminiſtered with advantage in moſt fevers where bleeding is not neceſſary, or where there are no ſymptoms of topical inflammation.

* The bark may likewiſe be very properly adminiſtered, along with other cordials, in the following manner: Take an ounce of Peruvian bark, orange peal half an ounce, Virginian ſnake-root two drams, ſaffron one dram. Let all of them be powdered, and infuſed in an Engliſh pint of the beſt brandy for three or four days. Afterwards the liquor may be ſtrained, and two tea-ſpoonfuls of it given three or four times a-day in a glaſs of ſmall wine or negas.

CHAP.

CHAP. XX.

OF THE MALIGNANT, PUTRID, OR SPOTTED FEVER.

THIS may be called the *peſtilential fever* of Europe, as in many of its ſymptoms it bears a great reſemblance to that dreadful diſeaſe the plague.

PERSONS of a lax habit, a melancholy diſpoſition, and thoſe whoſe vigour has been waſted by long faſting, watching, hard labour, exceſſive venery, frequent ſalivations, *&c.* are moſt liable to this diſeaſe.

CAUSES.——This fever is occaſioned by an unwholeſome, putrid, or ſtagnating air. Hence it prevails in jails, hoſpitals and infirmaries, eſpecially where ſuch places are too much crouded, and cleanlineſs is neglected.

A cloſe conſtitution of the air, with long rainy or foggy weather, likewiſe occaſions putrid fevers. Hence they often ſucceed great inundations in low and marſhy countries, eſpecially when theſe are preceded or followed by a hot and ſultry ſeaſon.

LIVING too much upon animal food, without a proper mixture of vegetables, or eating fiſh or

fleſh that has been kept too long, are likewiſe apt to occaſion this kind of fever. Hence ſailors on long voyages, and the inhabitants of beſieged cities, are very often viſited with putrid fevers.

Corn that has been greatly damaged by rainy ſeaſons, or long keeping, and water which has become putrid by ſtagnation, &c. may likewiſe occaſion putrid fevers.

Dead carcaſes tainting the air, eſpecially in hot ſeaſons, are very apt to occaſion putrid diſeaſes. Hence this kind of fever often prevails in camps, and ſuch countries as are the ſcenes of war and bloodſhed. This ſhews the propriety of removing church-yards, ſlaughter-houſes, &c. at a proper diſtance from great towns.

Want of cleanlineſs is a very general cauſe of putrid fevers. Hence they prevail amongſt the poor inhabitants of large towns, who breathe a confined unwholeſome air, neglect cleanlineſs, and are forced to live upon ſpoiled or unwholeſome proviſions. Such mechanics as carry on dirty employments, and are conſtantly confined within doors, are likewiſe very liable to putrid fevers.

We ſhall only add, that putrid, malignant, or ſpotted fevers, are very infectious; and are therefore often communicated in this way. For which reaſon all perſons ought to keep at a diſtance from ſuch as are affected with thoſe diſeaſes, unleſs thoſe whoſe attendance is abſolutely neceſſary.

SYMPTOMS.——The malignant fever is generally preceded by a remarkable weakneſs, or

loſs of ſtrength, without any apparent cauſe. This is ſometimes ſo great, that the patient can ſcarce walk, or even ſit upright, without being in danger of fainting away. His mind too is greatly dejected; he ſighs, and is full of dreadful apprehenſions.

THERE is a nauſea, and ſometimes a vomiting of bile; a violent pain of the head, with a ſtrong pulſation or throbbing of the temporal arteries; the eyes often appear red and inflamed, with a pain at the bottom of the orbit; there is a noiſe in the ears, the breathing is laborious, and often interrupted with a ſigh; the patient complains of pain about the region of the ſtomach, and in his back and loins; his tongue is at firſt white, but afterwards it appears black and chap'd; and his teeth are covered with a black cruſt. He ſometimes paſſes worms both upwards and downwards, is affected with tremors, or ſhaking, and often becomes delirious.

IF blood be let, it appears diſſolved, or with a very ſmall degree of coheſion, and ſoon becomes putrid; the ſtools ſmell extremely fœtid, and are ſometimes of a greeniſh, black, or rediſh caſt. Spots of a pale, purple, dun or black colour often appear upon the ſkin, and ſometimes there are violent hœmorrhages, or diſcharges of blood from the mouth, eyes, noſe, *&c.*

PUTRID fevers may be diſtinguiſhed from the inflammatory, by the ſmalneſs of the pulſe, the great dejection of mind, the diſſolved ſtate of the

blood, the petechiæ, or purple ſpots, and the putrid ſmell of the excrements. They may likewiſe be diſtinguiſhed from the low or nervous fever by the heat and thirſt being greater, the urine of a higher colour, and all the other ſymptoms more violent.

It ſometimes happens, however, that the inflammatory, nervous, and putrid ſymptoms are ſo blended together, as to render it very difficult to determine to which claſs the fever belongs. In this caſe the greateſt caution and ſkill are requiſite. All endeavours muſt be uſed to relieve the moſt urgent ſymptoms; and the efforts of nature ought carefully to be watched, in order that we may give her what aſſiſtance we can in expelling the cauſe of the diſeaſe in her own way.

Inflammatory and nervous fevers may be converted into malignant and putrid, by too hot a regimen, or improper medicines.

The duration of putrid fevers is extremely uncertain; ſometimes they terminate betwixt the ſeventh and fourteenth day, and at other times they are prolonged for five or ſix weeks. Their duration depends greatly upon the conſtitution of the patient, and the manner of treating the diſeaſe.

The moſt favourable ſymptoms are a gentle looſeneſs after the fourth or fifth day, with a warm, mild ſweat. Theſe, when continued for a conſiderable time, often carry off the fever, and ſhould never be imprudently ſtopped. Small miliary

iiary puſtules appearing between the petechiæ, or purple ſpots, are likewiſe favourable, as alſo hot ſcabby eruptions about the mouth and noſe. It is a good ſign when the pulſe riſes upon the uſe of wine, or other cordials, and the nervous ſymptoms abate; deafneſs coming on towards the decline of the fever, is likewiſe often a favourable ſymptom, and ſo are abſceſſes in the groin, or parotid glands.

Amongst the unfavourable ſymptoms may be reckoned an exceſſive looſeneſs, with a hard ſwelled belly; large black or livid blotches breaking out upon the ſkin; aphthæ in the mouth; cold clammy ſweats; blindneſs; change of the voice; a wild ſtaring of the eyes; difficulty of ſwallowing; an inability to put out the tongue; and a conſtant inclination to uncover the breaſt. When the ſweat and ſaliva are tinged with blood, and the urine is black, or depoſites a black ſooty ſediment, the patient is in great danger. Starting of the tendons, and fœtid, ichorous, involuntary ſtools, attended with coldneſs of the extremities, are generally the forerunners of death.

REGIMEN.——In the management of this diſeaſe we ought to endeavour, as far as poſſible, to counteract the putrid tendency of the humours; to ſupport the patient's ſtrength and ſpirits; and to aſſiſt Nature in expelling the cauſe of the diſeaſe, by gently promoting perſpiration and the other evacuations.

It has been obſerved, that putrid fevers are often occaſioned by unwholeſome air, and of courſe they muſt be aggravated by it. Care muſt therefore be taken to prevent the air from ſtagnating in the patient's chamber, to keep it cool, and renew it frequently, by opening the doors or windows of ſome adjacent apartment. The breath and perſpiration of perſons in perfect health ſoon render the air of a ſmall apartment noxious; but this will ſooner happen from the perſpiration and breath of a perſon whoſe whole maſs of humours are in a putrid ſtate.

Besides the frequent admiſſion of freſh air, we would recommend the uſe of vinegar, ver-juice, juice of lemon, Sevile orange, or any kind of vegetable acid that can be moſt readily obtained. Theſe ought frequently to be ſprinkled upon the floor, the bed, and every part of the room. They may alſo be evaporated with an hot iron, or by boiling, &c. The freſh ſkins of lemons or oranges ought likewiſe to be laid in different parts of the room, and they ſhould be frequently held to the patient's noſe. The uſe of acids in this manner would not only prove very refreſhing to the patient, but would likewiſe tend to prevent the infection from ſpreading among thoſe who attend him. Strong ſcented herbs, as rue, tanſy, roſemary, wormwood, &c. may likewiſe be laid in different parts of the houſe, and ſmelled to by thoſe who go near the patient.

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The patient muſt not only be kept cool, but likewiſe quiet and eaſy. The leaſt noiſe will affect his head, and the ſmalleſt fatigue will be apt to make him faint away.

Few things are of greater importance in this diſeaſe than acids, eſpecially thoſe of an aſtringent nature, which ought to be mixed with all the patient's food as well as drink. Orange, lemon, or vinegar whey, are all very proper, and may be drank by turns, according to the patient's inclination. They may be rendered cordial by the addition of wine in ſuch quantity as the patient's ſtrength ſeems to require. When he is very low, he may drink negas, with only one-half water, and ſharpened with the juice of orange or lemon. In ſome caſes a glaſs of clear wine may now and then be allowed. The moſt proper wine is Rheniſh; but if the belly be looſe, red port or claret is to be preferred.

When the belly is bound, a tea-ſpoonful of the cream of tartar may be put into a cup of the patient's drink, as there is occaſion; or he may eat a few tamarinds, which will both quench his thirſt and promote a diſcharge by ſtool.

If camomile-tea will ſit upon the ſtomach, it is a very proper drink in this diſeaſe. It may be ſharpened by adding to every cup of the tea ten or fifteen drops of the elixir of vitriol.

The food muſt be light, as panado, groat-gruel, and ſuch like; to theſe a little wine may be added, if the patient be weak and low; and

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they ought all to be ſharpened with the juice of orange, the jelly of currants, or the like. The patient ought likewiſe to eat freely of ripe fruits, either baked, roaſted or raw, as roaſted apples, currant or gooſeberry-tarts, preſerved cherries, plums, and ſuch like.

The patient ought never to be long without nouriſhment. Taking a little food or drink frequently not only ſupports the ſpirits, but counteracts the putrid tendency of the humours; for which reaſon he ought frequently to be ſipping ſmall quantities of ſome of the acid liquors mentioned above, or any that may be more agreeable to his palate, or more readily obtained.

If the patient be delirious, his feet and hands ought to be frequently fomented with a ſtrong infuſion of camomile flowers. This, or an infuſion of the bark, to ſuch as can afford it, cannot fail to have a good effect. Fomentations of this kind not only relieve the head, by relaxing the veſſels in the extremities, but as their contents are abſorbed, and taken into the blood, they may by their antiſeptic qualities aſſiſt in preventing the putreſcency of the humours.

If the patient be not able to put his feet and hands into the decoction, clothes dipt in it may be applied to them.

MEDICINE.——If a vomit be given at the beginning of this fever, it will hardly fail to have a good effect; but if the fever has gone on for ſome days, and the ſymptoms are violent, vomits are not quite ſo ſafe. The body however is always

ways to be kept gently open by clyſters, or mild laxative medicines.

Bleeding is ſeldom neceſſary in putrid fevers. If there be ſigns of an inflammation, it may ſometimes be permitted at the firſt onſet; but the repetition of it generally proves hurtful.

Blistering plaſters are never to be uſed unleſs in the greateſt extremities. If the petechiæ or ſpots ſhould ſuddenly diſappear, the patient's pulſe ſink remarkably, and a delirium, with other bad ſymptoms, come on, bliſtering may be permitted. In this caſe the bliſtering plaſters are to be applied to the head and inſide of the legs or thighs. But as they are ſometimes apt to occaſion a gangrene, we would rather recommend warm cataplaſms or poultices of muſtard and vinegar, to be applied to the feet, having recourſe to bliſters only in the utmoſt extremities.

A very ridiculous notion has long prevailed, of expelling the poiſonous matter of malignant diſeaſes by trifling doſes of cordial or alexipharmic medicines. In conſequence of this notion the contrayerva root, the cordial confection, the mithridate, &c. have been extolled as infallible remedies. There is reaſon however to believe, that theſe ſeldom do much good. Where cordials are neceſſary, we know none that is ſuperior to good wine; and therefore again recommend it both as the ſafeſt and beſt. Wine, with acids and antiſeptics, are the only things to be relied on in the cure of malignant fevers.

In the moſt dangerous ſpecies of this diſeaſe, when it is attended with purple, livid, or black ſpots, the Peruvian bark muſt be adminiſtered. I have ſeen it, when joined with acids, almoſt perform wonders, even in caſes where the petechiæ had the moſt threatening aſpect. But, to anſwer this purpoſe, it muſt not only be given in large doſes, but duly perſiſted in.

The beſt method of adminiſtering the bark is certainly in ſubſtance. An ounce of it in powder may be mixt with half an Engliſh pint of water, and the ſame quantity of red wine, and ſharpened with the elixir, or the ſpirit of vitriol, which will both make it ſit eaſier on the ſtomach, and render it more beneficial. Two or three ounces of the ſyrup of lemon may be added, and two table-ſpoonfuls of the mixture taken every two hours, or oftener, if the ſtomach will bear it.

Thoſe who cannot take the bark in ſubſtance may infuſe it in wine, as recommended in the preceding diſeaſe.

If there be a violent looſeneſs, the bark muſt be boiled in red wine with a little cinnamon, and ſharpened with the elixir of vitriol, as above. Nothing can be more beneficial in this kind of looſeneſs than plenty of acids, and ſuch things as promote a gentle perſpiration.

If the patient be troubled with vomiting, a dram of the ſalt of wormwood diſſolved in an ounce and half of freſh lemon-juice, and made into a draught with an ounce of ſimple cinnamon-water,

water, and a bit of ſugar, may be given, and repeated as often as it is neceſſary.

If ſwellings of the glands appear, their ſuppuration is to be promoted by the application of poultices, ripening cataplaſms, &c. And as ſoon there is any appearance of matter in them they ought to be laid open, and the poultices continued.

I have known large ulcerous ſores break out in various parts of the body, in the decline of this fever, of a livid gangrenous appearance, and a moſt putrid cadaverous ſmell. Theſe gradually healed, and the patient recovered, by the plentiful uſe of Peruvian bark and wine, ſharpened with the ſpirits of vitriol.

For preventing putrid fevers we would recommend a ſtrict regard to cleanlineſs; a dry ſituation; ſufficient exerciſe in the open air; wholeſome food, and a moderate uſe of generous liquors. Infection ought above all things to be avoided. No conſtitution is proof againſt it. I have known perſons ſeized with a putrid fever, by only making a ſingle viſit to a patient in it; others have caught it by going through a town where it prevailed; and ſome by attending the funerals of ſuch as died of it.

When a putrid fever ſeizes any perſon in a family the greateſt attention is neceſſary to prevent the diſeaſe from ſpreading. The ſick ought to be placed in a large apartment, as remote from the reſt of the family as poſſible; he ought likewiſe to be

be kept extremely clean, and ſhould have freſh air frequently let into his chamber; whatever comes from him ſhould be immediately removed, his linen ſhould be frequently changed, and thoſe in health ought to avoid all unneceſſary communication with him.

Any one who is apprehenſive of having caught the infection, ought immediately to take a vomit, and to work it off by drinking plentifully of camomile tea. This may be repeated in a day or two, if the apprehenſions ſtill continue, or any unfavourable ſymptoms appear.

The perſon ought likewiſe to take an infuſion of the bark and camomile flowers for his ordinary drink; and before he goes to bed, he may drink an Engliſh pint of pretty ſtrong negas, or a few glaſſes of generous wine. I have been frequently obliged to follow this courſe, when malignant fevers prevailed, and have likewiſe recommended it to others with conſtant ſucceſs.

People generally fly to bleeding and purging as antidotes againſt infection; but theſe are ſo far from ſecuring them, that they often increaſe the danger.

Those who attend the ſick in putrid fevers, ought always to have a piece of ſpunge or a handkerchief dipt in vinegar, or juice of lemon, to hold at their noſe. They ought likewiſe to waſh their hands, and, if poſſible, to change their clothes, before they go into company.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXI.

OF THE MILIARY FEVER.

THIS fever takes its name from the ſmall puſtules or bladders which appear on the ſkin, reſembling, in ſhape and ſize, the ſeeds of millet. The puſtules are either red or white, and ſometimes both are mixed together.

THE whole body is ſometimes covered with puſtules; but they are generally more numerous where the ſweat is moſt abundant, as on the breaſt, the back, &c. A gentle ſweat, or moiſture on the ſkin, greatly promotes the eruption; but, when the ſkin is dry, the eruption is both more painful and dangerous.

SOMETIMES this is a primary diſeaſe; but it is much oftener only a ſymptom of ſome other malady, as the ſmall-pox, meaſles, ardent, putrid, or nervous fever, &c. In all theſe caſes it is generally the effect of too hot a regimen or medicines.

THE miliary fever chiefly attacks the idle and the phlegmatic, or perſons of a relaxed habit. The young and the aged are more liable to it than thoſe in the vigour and prime of life. It is likewiſe more incident to women than men, eſpecially the delicate and the indolent, who, neglecting exerciſe,

keep continually within doors, and live upon weak watery diet. Such females are extremely liable to be ſeized with this diſeaſe in childbed, and often loſe their lives by it.

CAUSES.——The miliary fever is ſometimes occaſioned by violent paſſions or affections of the mind; as exceſſive grief, anxiety, thoughtfulneſs, &c. It may likewiſe be occaſioned by exceſſive watching, great evacuations, a weak watery diet, rainy ſeaſons, eating too freely of cold, watery, unripe fruits, as plums, cherries, cucumbers, melons, &c. Impure waters, or proviſions which have been ſpoiled by rainy ſeaſons, long keeping, &c. may likewiſe cauſe miliary fevers. They may alſo be occaſioned by the ſtoppage of any cuſtomary evacuation, as iſſues, ſetons, ulcers, the bleeding piles in men, or the menſtrual flux in women, &c.

THIS diſeaſe in childbed-women is ſometimes the effect of great coſtiveneſs during pregnancy; it may likewiſe be occaſioned by their exceſſive uſe of green unripe fruits, and other unwholeſome things, in which pregnant women are too apt to indulge. But its moſt general cauſe is indolence. Such women as lead a ſedentary life, eſpecially during pregnancy, and at the ſame time live groſsly, can hardly eſcape this diſeaſe in childbed. Hence it proves extremely fatal to women of faſhion, and likewiſe to thoſe women in manufacturing towns, who, in order to aſſiſt their huſbands, ſit cloſe within doors for almoſt the whole of their time. But among women who are active and laborious, who live in the

the country, and take enough of exercise without doors, this disease is very little known.

SYMPTOMS.——When this is a primary disease, it makes its attack, like most other eruptive fevers, with a slight shivering, which is succeeded by heat, loss of strength, faintishness, sighing, a low quick pulse, difficulty of breathing, with great anxiety and oppression of the breast. The patient is restless, and sometimes delirious; the tongue appears white, and the hands shake, with often a burning heat in the palms; and in childbed-women the milk generally goes away, and the other discharges stop.

The patient feels an itching or pricking pain under the skin, after which innumerable small pustules of a red or white colour begin to appear. Upon this the symptoms generally abate, the pulse becomes more full and soft, the skin grows moister, and the sweat, as the disease advances, begins to have a peculiar fœtid smell; the great load on the breast, and oppression of the spirits, generally go off, and the customary evacuations gradually return. About the sixth or seventh day from the eruption, the pustules begin to dry and fall off, which occasions a very disagreeable itching in the skin.

It is impossible to ascertain the exact time when the pustules will either appear or go off. They generally come out on the third or fourth day, when the eruption is critical; but, when symptomatical, they may appear at any time of the disease.

Sometimes the puſtules appear and vaniſh by turns. When that is the caſe, there is always danger; but when they go in all of a ſudden, and do not appear again, the danger is very great.

In childbed-women the puſtules are commonly at firſt filled with clear water, afterwards they grow yellowiſh. Sometimes they are interſperſed with puſtules of a red colour. When theſe only appear, the diſeaſe goes by the name of a *raſh*.

REGIMEN.——In all eruptive fevers, of whatever kind, the chief point is to prevent the ſudden diſappearing of the puſtules, and to promote their maturation. For this purpoſe the patient muſt be kept in ſuch a temperature, as neither to puſh out the eruption too faſt, nor to cauſe it retreat prematurely. The diet and drink ought therefore to be in a moderate degree nouriſhing and cordial; but neither ſtrong nor heating. The patient's chamber ought neither to be kept too hot nor cold; and he ſhould not be too much covered with clothes. Above all, the mind is to be kept eaſy and chearful. Nothing ſo certainly makes an eruption go in as fear, or the apprehenſion of danger.

The food muſt be weak chicken-broth with bread, panado, ſago, or groat-gruel, *&c.* to a gill of which may be added a ſpoonful or two of wine, as the patient's ſtrength requires, with a few grains of ſalt and a little ſugar. Good apples roaſted or boiled, with other ripe fruits of an opening cooling nature, may be eat.

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THE drink muſt be ſuited to the ſtate of the patient's ſtrength and ſpirits. If theſe be pretty high, the drink ought to be weak; as water-gruel, balm-tea, or the following decoction *.

WHEN the patient's ſpirits are low, and the eruption does not riſe ſufficiently, his drink muſt be a little more generous; as wine-whey, or ſmall negas, ſharpened with the juice of orange or lemon, and made ſtronger or weaker as circumſtances may require.

SOMETIMES the miliary fever approaches towards a putrid nature, in which caſe the patient's ſtrength muſt be ſupported with generous cordials, joined with acids; and, if the degree of putreſcency be great, the Peruvian bark muſt be adminiſtered. If the head be much affected, the belly muſt be kept open by emollient clyſters †.

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* Take two ounces of the ſhavings of hartſhorn, and the ſame quantity of ſarſaparilla, boil them in two Engliſh quarts of water. To the ſtrained decoction add a little white ſugar, and let the patient take it for his ordinary drink.

† In the *commercium literarium* for the year 1735, we have the hiſtory of an epidemical miliary fever, which raged at Straſburg in the months of November, December, and January; from which we learn the neceſſity of a temperate regimen in this malady, and likewiſe that phyſicians are not always the firſt who diſcover the proper treatment of diſeaſes. "This fever made terrible havoc even among men of robuſt conſtitutions, and all medicine proved in vain. They were ſeized in an inſtant with ſhivering, yawning, ſtretching, and pains in the back, ſucceeded by a moſt intenſe heat; at the ſame time there was great loſs of ſtrength and appetite. On the

MEDICINE.——If the food and drink be properly regulated, there will be little occaſion for medicine in this diſeaſe. Should the eruption however not riſe, or the ſpirits flag, it will not only be neceſſary to ſupport the patient with cordials, but likewiſe to apply bliſters. The moſt proper cordial in this caſe is good wine, which may either be taken in the patient's food or drink; and if there be any ſigns of putreſcence, which frequently happens, the bark and acids may be mixed with wine, as directed in the putrid fever.

Some recommend bliſters through the whole courſe of this diſeaſe; and where nature flags, and the eruption comes and goes, it may be neceſſary to keep up a ſtimulus, by a continual ſucceſſion of ſmall bliſters; but we would not recommend above one at a time. If however the pulſe ſhould ſink remarkably, the puſtules fall in, and the head be affected, it will be neceſſary to apply ſeveral bliſtering plaſters to the moſt ſenſible parts, as the inſide of the legs and thighs, &c.

ſeventh or ninth day the miliary eruptions appeared, or ſpots like flea-bites, with great anxiety, a delirium, reſtleſſneſs, and toſſing in bed. Bleeding was fatal. While matters were in this unhappy ſituation, a midwife, of her own accord, gave to a patient, in the height of the diſeaſe, a clyſter of rain-water and butter without ſalt, and for his ordinary drink a quart of ſpring-water, half a pint of generous wine, the juice of a lemon, and ſix ounces of the whiteſt ſugar gently boiled till a ſcum aroſe, and this with great ſucceſs; for the belly was ſoon looſened, the grievous ſymptoms vaniſhed, and the patient was reſtored to his ſenſes, and ſnatched from the jaws of death." This practice was imitated by others with the like happy effects.

Bleeding

Bleeding is ſeldom neceſſary in this diſeaſe, and ſometimes it does much hurt, as it weakens the patient, and depreſſes his ſpirits. It is therefore never to be attempted unleſs by the advice of a phyſician. We mention this, becauſe it has been cuſtomary to treat this diſeaſe in childbed-women by plentiful bleeding, and other evacuations, as if it were highly inflammatory. But this practice is generally very unſafe. Patients in this ſituation bear evacuations very ill. And indeed the diſeaſe ſeems often to be more of a putrid than of an inflammatory nature.

Though this fever be often occaſioned in childbed-women by too hot a regimen, yet it would be dangerous to leave that off all of a ſudden, and have recourſe to a very cool regimen, and large evacuations. We have reaſon to believe, that ſupporting the patient's ſpirits, and promoting the natural evacuations, is here much ſafer than to have recourſe to artificial ones, as theſe, by ſinking the ſpirits, ſeldom fail to increaſe the danger.

If the diſeaſe proves tedious, or the recovery ſlow, we would recommend the Peruvian bark, which may either be taken in ſubſtance, or infuſed in wine or water, as the patient inclines.

The miliary fever, like other eruptive diſeaſes, requires gentle purging, which ſhould not be neglected as ſoon as the fever is gone off, and the patient's ſtrength will permit.

To avoid this diſeaſe, a pure dry air, ſufficient exerciſe, and wholeſome food, are neceſſary. Pregnant women ſhould guard againſt coſtiveneſs, and take daily as much exerciſe as they can bear, avoiding all green traſhy fruits, and other unwholeſome things; and when in childbed, they ought ſtrictly to obſerve a cool regimen.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXII.

OF THE REMITTING FEVER.

THIS fever takes its name from a remiſſion of the ſymptoms, which happens ſometimes ſooner, and ſometimes later, but generally before the eighth day. The remiſſion is commonly preceded by a gentle ſweat, after which the patient ſeems greatly relieved, but in a few hours the fever returns. Theſe remiſſions return at very irregular periods, and are ſometimes of longer, ſometimes of ſhorter duration; the nearer however that the fever approaches to a regular intermittent, the danger is the leſs.

CAUSES.——Remitting fevers prevail in low marſhy countries abounding with wood and ſtagnating water; but they prove moſt fatal in places where great heat and moiſture are combined, as in ſome parts of Africa, the province of Bengal in the Eaſt Indies, *&c.* where remitting fevers are generally of a putrid kind, and prove very fatal. They are moſt frequent in cloſe calm weather, eſpecially after rainy ſeaſons, great inundations, or the like. No age, ſex, or conſtitution is exempted from the attack of this fever; but it chiefly ſeizes perſons of a relaxed habit, who live in low dirty habitations, breathe an impure ſtagnating air, take little exerciſe, and uſe unwholeſome diet.

SYMPTOMS.——The firſt ſymptoms of this fever are generally yawning, ſtretching, pain, and

and giddineſs in the head, with alternate fits of heat and cold. Sometimes the patient is affected with a delirium at the very firſt attack. There is a pain, and ſometimes a ſwelling, about the region of the ſtomach, the tongue is white, the eyes and ſkin frequently appear yellow, and the patient is often afflicted with bilious vomitings. The pulſe is ſometimes a little hard, but ſeldom full, and the blood when let, rarely ſhews any ſigns of inflammation. Some patients are exceedingly coſtive, and others are afflicted with a very troubleſome looſeneſs.

It is impoſſible to deſcribe all the ſymptoms of this diſeaſe, as they vary according to the ſituation, the ſeaſon of the year, and the conſtitution of the patient. They may likewiſe be greatly changed by the method of treatment, and by many other circumſtances too tedious to mention. Sometimes the bilious ſymptoms predominate, ſometimes the nervous, and at other times the putrid. Nor is it at all uncommon to find a ſucceſſion of each of theſe, or even a complication of them at the ſame time, in the ſame perſon.

REGIMEN.—The regimen muſt be adapted to the prevailing ſymptoms. When there are any ſigns of inflammation, the diet muſt be ſlender, and the drink weak and diluting. But when nervous or putrid ſymptoms occur, it will be neceſſary to ſupport the patient with food and liquors of a more generous nature, ſuch as are recommended in the immediately preceding fevers. We muſt however be very cautious in the uſe of things

of a heating quality, as this fever is frequently changed into a *continual* by an hot regimen, and improper medicines.

WHATEVER the ſymptoms are, the patient ought to be kept cool, quiet, and clean. His apartment, if poſſible, ſhould be large, and frequently ventilated by letting in freſh air at the doors or windows. It ought likewiſe to be ſprinkled with vinegar, juice of lemon, or the like. His linen, bedclothes, *&c.* ought to be frequently changed, and all his excrements immediately removed. Though theſe things have been recommended before, we think it neceſſary to repeat them here, as they are of more importance to the ſick than all the boaſted powers of medicine*.

MEDICINE.——In order to cure this fever, we muſt endeavour to bring it to a regular intermiſſion. This intention may be promoted by bleeding, if there be any ſigns of inflammation; but when that is not the caſe, bleeding ought by no means to be attempted, as it will weaken the patient, and prolong the diſeaſe. A vomit however will ſeldom be improper, and is generally of

* The ingenious Dr. Lind of Edinburgh, in his inaugural diſſertation concerning the putrid remitting fever of Bengal, has the following obſervation: "Induſia, lodices, ac ſtragula, ſæpius ſunt mutanda, ac aëri exponenda; fœces ſordeſque quam primum removendæ; oportet etiam ut loca quibus ægri decumbunt ſint ſalubria, et aceto conſperſa; denique ut ægris cura quanta maxima præſpiciatur. Compertum ego habeo, medicum hæc ſedulo obſervantem, quique ea exequi poteſt, multo magis ægris profuturum, quam medicum peritiorem hiſce commodis deſtitutum."

great

great ſervice. Twenty or thirty grains of ipecacuanha will anſwer this purpoſe very well; but, where it can be obtained, we would rather recommend one or two grains of tartar emetic, with five or ſix grains of ipecacuanha, to be made into a draught, and given for a vomit. This may be repeated once or twice at proper intervals, if the ſickneſs or nauſea continues.

The body ought to be kept open either by clyſters or gentle laxatives, as weak infuſions of ſenna and manna, ſmall doſes of the lenitive electuary, cream of tartar, tamarinds, ſtewed prunes, or the like; but all ſtrong or draſtic purgatives are to be carefully avoided.

By this courſe the fever in a few days may generally be brought to a pretty regular or diſtinct intermiſſion, in which caſe, the Peruvian bark may be adminiſtered, and it will ſeldom fail to perfect the cure. It is needleſs here to repeat the methods of giving the bark, as we have already had occaſion frequently to mention them.

The moſt likely way to avoid this fever is to uſe a wholeſome and nouriſhing diet, to pay the moſt ſcrupulous regard to cleanlineſs, to keep the body warm, and to take ſufficient exerciſe. In countries where it is endemical, the beſt preventive medicine which we can recommend, is the Peruvian bark, which may either be chewed or infuſed in brandy or wine, *&c.* Some recommend ſmoking tobacco as very beneficial in marſhy countries, both for the prevention of this and intermitting fevers.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXIII.

OF THE SMALL-POX.

THIS diſeaſe is ſo general, that very few eſcape it at one time of life or another. It is the moſt contagious malady in theſe parts; and has, for many years, proved the ſcourge of Europe.

THE ſmall-pox generally appear towards the ſpring. They are very frequent in ſummer, leſs ſo in autumn, and leaſt of all in winter. Children are moſt liable to this diſeaſe; and thoſe whoſe food is unwholeſome, who want proper exerciſe, and abound with groſs humours, run the greateſt hazard from it.

THE diſeaſe is diſtinguiſhed into the diſtinct and confluent kind; the latter of which is always attended with danger. There are likewiſe other diſtinctions of the ſmall-pox; as the cryſtalline, the bloody, *&c.*

CAUSES. ——The ſmall-pox are commonly caught by infection. Since the diſeaſe was firſt brought into Europe, the infection has never been wholly extinguiſhed; nor have any proper methods, ſo far as we know, ever been taken for that purpoſe; ſo that now it has become in a manner conſtitutional. Children who have over-heated themſelves by running, wreſtling, *&c.* or adults

after

after a debauch, are very apt to be ſeized with the ſmall-pox.

SYMPTOMS.——This diſeaſe is ſo generally known, that a minute deſcription of it is unneceſſary. Children commonly look a little dull, ſeem liſtleſs and drowſy for a few days before the more violent ſymptoms of the ſmall-pox appear. They are likewiſe more inclined to drink than uſual, have little appetite for ſolid food, complain of wearineſs, and, upon taking exerciſe, are apt to ſweat. Theſe are ſucceeded by ſlight fits of cold and heat in turns, which, as the time of the eruption approaches, become more violent, and are accompanied with pains of the head and loins, vomiting, *&c.* The pulſe is quick, with a great heat of the ſkin, and reſtleſſneſs. When the patient drops aſleep, he wakes in a kind of horror, with a ſudden ſtart, which is a very common ſymptom of the approaching eruption; as are alſo convulſion-fits in very young children.

About the third or fourth day from the time of ſickening, the ſmall-pox generally begin to appear; ſometimes indeed they appear ſooner, but that is no favourable ſymptom. At firſt they very nearly reſemble flea-bites, and are ſooneſt diſcovered on the face, arms, and breaſt.

The moſt favourable ſymptoms are a ſlow eruption, and an abatement of the fever as ſoon as the puſtules appear. In a mild diſtinct kind of ſmall-pox the puſtules ſeldom appear before the fourth

fourth day from the time of ſickening, and they generally keep coming out gradually for ſeveral days after. Puſtules which are diſtinct, with a florid red baſis, and which fill with thick purulent matter, firſt of a whitiſh, and afterwards of a yellowiſh colour, are the beſt.

A LIVID brown colour of the puſtules is an unfavourable ſymptom; as alſo when they are ſmall and flat, with black ſpecks in the middle. Puſtules which contain a thin watery ichor are very bad. A great number of pox on the face is always attended with danger. It is likewiſe a very bad ſign when they are confluent, or run into one another.

IT is a moſt unfavourable ſymptom when petechiæ, or purple, brown, and black ſpots are interſperſed among the puſtules. Theſe are ſigns of a putrid diſſolution of the blood, and ſhew the danger to be very great. Bloody ſtools or urine, with a ſwelled belly, are bad ſymptoms; as is alſo a continual ſtrangury. When the urine is very pale, and there is a violent throbbing of the arteries of the neck, it portends a delirium or convulſion fits. When the face does not ſwell, or falls before the pox come to maturity, it is very unfavourable. If the face begins to fall about the eleventh or twelfth day, and at the ſame time the hands and feet begin to ſwell, the patient generally does well; but when theſe do not ſucceed each other, there is reaſon to apprehend danger. When the tongue is covered with a brown cruſt, it is an unfavourable ſymptom. Cold ſhivering fits coming on at the height

height of the diſeaſe are likewiſe unfavourable. Grinding of the teeth, when it proceeds from an affection of the nervous ſyſtem, is a bad ſign; but ſometimes it is occaſioned by worms, or a diſordered ſtomach.

REGIMEN.——When the firſt ſymptoms of the ſmall-pox appear, people are ready to be alarmed, and often fly to the uſe of medicine, to the great danger of the patient's life. I have known children, to appeaſe the anxiety of their parents, bled, bliſtered, and purged, during the fever which preceded the eruption of the ſmall-pox, to ſuch a degree, that nature was not only diſturbed in her operation, but rendered unable to ſupport the puſtules after they were out; ſo that the patient, exhauſted by mere evacuations, ſunk under the diſeaſe.

When convulſions appear, they give a dreadful alarm. Immediately ſome noſtrum is applied, as if this were a primary diſeaſe; whereas it is only a ſymptom, and far from being an unfavourable one, of the approaching eruption. As the fits generally go off before the actual appearance of the ſmall-pox, it is attributed to the medicine, which by this means acquires a reputation without any merit.

All that is, generally ſpeaking, neceſſary during the eruptive fever, is to keep the patient cool and eaſy, allowing him to drink freely of ſome weak diluting liquors; as balm-tea, barley-water, clear whey, gruels, *&c.* He ſhould not

be confined to bed; but ſhould ſit up as much as he is able, and ſhould have his feet and legs frequently bathed in lukewarm water. His food ought to be very light; and he ſhould be as little diſturbed with company as poſſible.

Much miſchief is done at this period by confining the patient too ſoon to his bed, and plying him with warm cordials or ſudorific medicines. Every thing that heats and inflames the blood increaſes the fever, and puſhes out the puſtules prematurely. This has numberleſs ill effects. It not only increaſes the number of puſtules, but likewiſe tends to make them run into one another; and when they have been puſhed out with too great violence, they generally fall in before they come to maturity.

The good women, as ſoon as they ſee the ſmall-pox begin to appear, commonly ply their tender charge with cordials, ſaffron and marigold-teas, wine, punch, and even brandy itſelf. All theſe are given with a view, as they term it, to throw out the eruption from the heart. This, like moſt other popular miſtakes, is the abuſe of a very juſt obſervation, *That when there is a moiſture on the ſkin, the pox riſe better, and the patient is eaſier than when it continues dry and parched.* But that is no reaſon for forcing the patient into a ſweat. Sweating never relieves unleſs where it comes ſpontaneouſly, or is the effect of drinking weak diluting liquors.

Children are often ſo peeviſh that they will not lie a-bed without a nurſe conſtantly by them. Indulging them in this, we have reaſon to believe, has many bad effects both upon the nurſe and child. Even the natural heat of the nurſe cannot fail to augment the fever of the child; but if ſhe too proves feveriſh, which is often the caſe, the danger muſt be increaſed *.

Laying ſeveral children who have the ſmall-pox in the ſame bed has many ill conſequences. They ought, if poſſible, never to be in the ſame chamber, as the perſpiration, the heat, the ſmell, &c. all tend to augment the fever, and to heighten the diſeaſe. It is common among the poor to ſee two or three children lying in the ſame bed, with ſuch a load of puſtules that even their ſkins ſtick together. One can hardly view a ſcene of this kind without being ſickened by the ſight. But how muſt the effluvia affect the poor patients, many of whom periſh by this uſage †?

A very

* I have known a nurſe, who had had the ſmall-pox before, ſo infected by lying conſtantly a-bed with a child in a bad kind of ſmall-pox, that ſhe had not only a great number of puſtules which broke out all over her body, but afterwards a malignant fever, which terminated in a number of impoſthumes or boils, and from which ſhe narrowly eſcaped with her life. We mention this to put others upon their guard againſt the danger of this virulent infection.

† This obſervation is likewiſe applicable to hoſpitals, workhouſes, &c where numbers of children happen to have the ſmall-pox at the ſame time. I have ſeen above forty children co ped

A VERY dirty cuſtom prevails amongſt the lower claſs of people, of allowing children in the ſmall-pox to keep on the ſame linen during the whole period of that loathſome diſeaſe. This is done leſt they ſhould catch cold, but it has many ill conſequences. The linen becomes hard by the moiſture which it abſorbs, and frets the tender ſkin. It likewiſe occaſions a bad ſmell, which is very pernicious both to the patient and thoſe about him; beſides the filth and ſordes which adhere to the linen being reſorbed, or taken up again into the body, greatly augment the diſeaſe.

A PATIENT ſhould not be ſuffered to be dirty in an internal diſeaſe, far leſs in the ſmall-pox. Cutaneous diſorders are often occaſioned by naſtineſs alone, and are always increaſed by it. Were the patient's linen to be changed every day, it would greatly refreſh him. Care indeed is to be taken that the linen be thoroughly dry. It ought likewiſe to be warmed, and put on when the patient is moſt cool.

So ſtrong is the vulgar prejudice in this country, notwithſtanding all that has been ſaid againſt

cooped up in one apartment all the while they had this diſeaſe, without any of them being admitted to breathe the freſh air. No one can be at a loſs to ſee the impropriety of ſuch conduct. It ought to be a rule, not only in hoſpitals for the ſmall-pox, but likewiſe for other diſeaſes, that no patient ſhould be within ſight or hearing of another. This is a matter to which too little regard is paid. In moſt hoſpitals and infirmaries, the ſick, the dying, and the dead, are often to be ſeen in the ſame apartment.

the hot regimen in the ſmall-pox, that numbers ſtill fall a ſacrifice to that error. I have ſeen poor women travelling in the depth of winter, and carrying their children along with them in the ſmall-pox; and have frequently obſerved others begging by the wayſide, with infants in their arms covered with the puſtules; yet I could never learn that one of theſe children died by this ſort of treatment. We would not however propoſe this as an example worthy of imitation; we only mention it to ſhew, that the danger of expoſing children to the open air in this diſeaſe is not ſo great as people are apt to imagine.

Strong prejudices however, when got over, often produce the oppoſite extremes. We would therefore adviſe people, when they avoid one error, not to run into another. Some celebrated inoculators order their patients to walk about all the time they are under the diſeaſe, as if they ailed nothing. We ſhould think it adviſable to keep them within doors, at leaſt during the eruption, as very cold air is apt to check the perſpiration, and to prevent the pox from riſing, or filling with matter. I do not remember ever to have ſeen large well filled puſtules where the patient was too much expoſed to the external air. In winter the air of this country is abundantly cool within doors, and in ſummer a patient may be kept more uniformly cool in the houſe than he can be out of it. For theſe and other reaſons, we ſhould think it right to confine the patient to the houſe while

while the eruption is out, but never to allow the heat of his chamber to be ſo great as to increaſe the fever, or occaſion a difficulty of breathing, *&c.* *

THE food in this diſeaſe ought to be very light, and of a cooling nature, as panado, or bread boiled with equal quantities of milk and water, good apples roaſted or boiled with milk, and ſweetened with a little ſugar, or ſuch like.

THE drink may be equal parts of milk and water, clear ſweet whey, barley-water, or thin gruel, *&c.* After the pox are full, butter-milk, being of an opening and cleanſing nature, is a very proper drink.

MEDICINE.——This diſeaſe is generally divided into four different periods, *viz.* the fever which precedes the eruption, the eruption itſelf, the ſuppuration, or maturation of the puſtules, and the ſecondary fever.

IT has already been obſerved, that little more is neceſſary during the primary fever than to keep the patient cool and quiet, allowing him to drink diluting liquors, and bathing his feet frequently

* It is now very common in the environs of great towns to meet people on the public walks with the ſmall-pox upon them. However well this may ſuit the purpoſes of boaſting inoculators, we cannot help thinking that all the ends of freſh air might be anſwered to the patients, without expoſing them in public, to the great terror and danger of their fellow-citizens, who have not had the diſeaſe. Surely humanity and good policy ſhould forbid this practice.

in warm water. Though this be generally the ſafeſt courſe that can be taken with infants, yet adults of a ſtrong conſtitution and plethoric habit ſometimes require bleeding. When a full pulſe, a dry ſkin, and other ſymptoms of inflammation, render this operation neceſſary, it ought to be performed; but, unleſs theſe ſymptoms are urgent, it is ſafer to let it alone; if the belly be bound, emollient clyſters may be thrown in.

If there be a great nauſea or inclination to vomit, weak camomile-tea or lukewarm water may be drank, in order to clean the ſtomach. At the beginning of a fever, nature generally attempts a diſcharge, either upwards or downwards, which, if promoted by gentle means, would tend greatly to abate the violence of the diſeaſe.

Though every method is to be taken during the primary fever, by a cool regimen, *&c.* to prevent too great an eruption; yet, after the puſtules have made their appearance, our buſineſs is to promote the ſuppuration, by diluting drink, light food, and, if nature ſeems to flag, by generous cordials. When a low, creeping pulſe, faintiſhneſs, and great loſs of ſtrength, render cordials neceſſary, we would recommend good wine, which may be made into negas, with an equal quantity of water, and ſharpened with the juice of orange, the jelly of currants, or the like. Wine-whey ſharpened as above, is likewiſe a proper drink in this caſe; great care however muſt be taken not to

to overheat the patient by any of theſe things. This, inſtead of promoting, would retard the eruption.

Sometimes the riſing of the ſmall-pox is prevented by the violence of the fever; in this caſe the cool regimen is ſtrictly to be obſerved. The patient's chamber muſt not only be kept cool, but he ought likewiſe frequently to be taken out of bed, and to be lightly covered with clothes while in it.

Excessive reſtleſſneſs often prevents the riſing and filling of the ſmall-pox. When that happens, gentle opiates are neceſſary. Theſe however ought always to be adminiſtered with a ſparing hand. To an infant, a tea-ſpoonful of the ſyrup of poppies may be given every five or ſix hours, till it has the deſired effect. An adult will require a table-ſpoonful in order to anſwer the ſame purpoſe.

If the patient be troubled with a ſtrangury, or ſuppreſſion of urine, which often happens in the ſmall-pox, he ſhould be frequently taken out of bed, and, if he be able, ſhould walk acroſs the room with his feet bare. When he cannot do this, he may be frequently ſet on his knees in bed, and ſhould endeavour to paſs his urine as often as he can. When theſe do not ſucceed, a tea-ſpoonful of the ſweet ſpirits of nitre may be occaſionally mixed with his drink. Nothing more certainly relieves the patient, or is more beneficial

in the ſmall-pox, than a plentiful diſcharge of urine.

If the mouth be foul, and the tongue dry and chapped, it ought to be frequently waſhed, and the throat gargled with water and honey, ſharpened with a little vinegar or currant jelly.

During the riſing of the ſmall-pox, it frequently happens that the patient is eight or ten days without a ſtool. This not only tends to heat and inflame the blood, but the fœces, by lodging ſo long in the body, become acrid and even putrid; from whence bad conſequences muſt enſue. It will therefore be proper, when the belly is bound, to throw in an emollient clyſter every ſecond or third day, through the whole courſe of the diſeaſe. This will greatly cool and relieve the patient.

When petechiæ, or purple, black, or livid ſpots appear among the ſmall-pox, the Peruvian bark muſt immediately be adminiſtered in as large doſes as the patient's ſtomach can bear. For a child, two drams of the bark in powder may be mixed in three ounces of common water, one ounce of ſimple cinnamon-water, and two ounces of the ſyrup of orange or lemon. This may be ſharpened with the ſpirits of vitriol, and a table ſpoonful of it given every hour. If it be given to an adult in the ſame form, he may take at leaſt three or four ſpoonfuls every hour. This medicine

cine ought not to be trifled with, but muſt be adminiſtered as frequently as the ſtomach can bear it; in which caſe it will often produce very happy effects. I have frequently ſeen the petechiæ diſappear, and ſmall-pox, which had a very threatening aſpect, riſe and fill with laudable matter, by the uſe of the bark and acids.

The patient's drink ought likewiſe in this caſe to be generous, as wine or ſtrong negas acidulated with ſpirits of vitriol, vinegar, the juice of lemon, jelly of currants, or ſuch like. His food muſt conſiſt of apples roaſted or boiled, preſerved cherries, plums, and other fruits of an acid nature.

The bark and acids are not only neceſſary when the petechiæ or putrid ſymptoms appear, but likewiſe in the lymphatic or cryſtalline ſmall-pox, where the matter is thin, and not duly prepared. The Peruvian bark ſeems to poſſeſs a ſingular power of aſſiſting nature in preparing laudable pus, or what is called good matter; conſequently it muſt be beneficial, both in this and other diſeaſes, where the criſis depends on a ſuppuration. I have often obſerved where the ſmall-pox were flat, and the matter contained in them quite clear and tranſparent, and where at firſt they had the appearance of running into one another, that the uſe of a few drams of the Peruvian bark, acidulated as above, changed the colour and conſiſtence of the matter, and produced the moſt happy effects.

When

When the eruption ſubſides ſuddenly, or, as the good women term it, when the ſmall-pox *ſtrike in*, before they have arrived at maturity, the danger is very great. This is often the effect of a hot regimen, or medicines which, at the beginning, puſh out the matter before it has been properly prepared. When this happens, bliſtering plaſters muſt be immediately applied to the wriſts and ancles, and the patient's ſpirits ſupported with cordials.

Sometimes bleeding has a ſurpriſing effect in raiſing the puſtules after they have ſubſided; but it requires ſkill to know when this is proper, or to what length the patient can bear it. Sharp cataplaſms however may be applied to the feet and hands, as they tend to promote the ſwelling of theſe parts, and by that means to draw the humours towards the extremities.

The moſt dangerous period of this diſeaſe is what we call the ſecondary fever. This generally comes on when the ſmall-pox begin to blacken, or turn on the face, and moſt of thoſe who die of the ſmall-pox are carried off by this fever.

Nature generally attempts, at the turn of the ſmall-pox, to relieve the patient by looſe ſtools. Her endeavours this way are by no means to be counteracted, but promoted, and the patient at the ſame time ſupported by food and drink of a nouriſhing and cordial nature.

If

If at the approach of the ſecondary fever the pulſe be very quick, hard, and ſtrong, the heat intenſe, and the breathing laborious, with other ſymptoms of an inflammation of the breaſt, the patient muſt immediately be bled, otherwiſe a fatal peripneumony will enſue. The quantity of blood to be let muſt be regulated by the patient's ſtrength, age, and the urgency of the ſymptoms.

But, in the ſecondary fever, if the patient be faintiſh, the puſtules become ſuddenly pale, and if there be great coldneſs of the extremities, bliſtering plaſters muſt be applied, and the patient muſt be ſupported with generous cordials. Wine and even ſpirits have ſometimes been given in ſuch caſes with amazing ſucceſs.

As the ſecondary fever is in great meaſure, if not wholly, owing to the abſorption of the matter, it would ſeem highly conſonant to reaſon, that the puſtules, as ſoon as they come to maturity, ſhould be opened. This is every day practiſed in other phlegmons which tend to ſuppuration; and there ſeems to be no reaſon why it ſhould be leſs proper here. On the contrary, we have reaſon to believe, that by this means the ſecondary fever might always be leſſened, and often wholly prevented.

The puſtules ſhould be opened when they begin to turn of a yellow colour. Very little art is neceſſary for this operation. They may either be opened with a pair of ſciſſars or a needle, and the matter

matter abſorbed by a little dry lint. As the puſtules are generally firſt ripe on the face, it will be proper to begin with opening theſe, and the others in courſe as they become ripe. The puſtules generally fill again, a ſecond or even a third time; for which cauſe the operation muſt be repeated, or rather continued ſo long as there is any conſiderable appearance of matter in the puſtules.

We have reaſon to believe, that this operation, rational as it is, has been neglected from a piece of miſtaken tenderneſs in parents. They believe, that it muſt give great pain to the poor child; and therefore would rather ſee it die than have it thus tortured. This notion however is entirely without foundation. I have frequently opened the puſtules when the patient did not ſee me, without his being in the leaſt ſenſible of it; but ſuppoſe it were attended with a little pain, that is nothing in compariſon to the advantages which ariſe from it.

Opening the puſtules not only prevents the reſorption of the matter into the blood, but likewiſe takes off the tenſion of the ſkin, and by that means greatly relieves the patient. It likewiſe tends to prevent the pitting, which is a matter of no ſmall importance. Acrid matter, by lodging long in the puſtules, cannot fail to corrode the tender ſkin; by which many a handſome face becomes ſo deformed as hardly to bear a reſemblance to the human figure *.

It

* Though this operation can never do harm, yet it is only neceſſary when the patient has a great load of ſmall-pox, or when

It is generally neceſſary, after the ſmall-pox are gone off, to purge the patient. If however the belly has been open through the whole courſe of the diſeaſe, or if butter-milk and other things of an opening nature have been drank freely after the height of the ſmall-pox, purging becomes leſs neceſſary; but it ought never wholly to be neglected.

For very young children, an infuſion of ſenna and prunes, with a little rhubarb, may be ſweetened with coarſe ſugar, and given in ſmall quantities till it operates. Thoſe who are farther advanced muſt take medicines of a ſharper nature. For example, a child of five or ſix years of age may take eight or ten grains of fine rhubarb in powder over night, and the ſame quantity of jalap in powder next morning. This may be wrought off with freſh broth or water-gruel, and may be repeated three or four times, five or ſix days intervening betwixt each doſe. For children further advanced, and adults, the doſe muſt be increaſed in proportion to the age and conſtitution.

When impoſthumes happen after the ſmall-pox, which is not ſeldom the caſe, they muſt be brought to ſuppuration as ſoon as poſſible, by means of ripening poultices; and, when they have been opened, or break of their own accord, the patient muſt be purged. The Peruvian bark and a milk diet will likewiſe be uſeful in this caſe.

when the matter which they contain is of ſo thin and acrid a nature that there is reaſon to apprehend bad conſequences from its being too quickly reſorbed, or taken up again into the maſs of circulating humours.

When

When a cough, a difficulty of breathing, or other ſymptoms of a conſumption, ſucceed to the ſmall-pox, the patient muſt be ſent to a place where the air is good, and put upon a courſe of aſſes milk, with ſuch exerciſe as he can bear. For further directions in this caſe, ſee the article Conſumptions.

OF INOCULATION.

Though no diſeaſe, after it is formed, baffles the powers of medicine more than the ſmall-pox, yet more may be done before-hand to render this diſeaſe favourable than any one we know, as almoſt all the danger from it may be prevented by inoculation. This ſalutary invention has been known in Europe above half a century, but, like moſt other uſeful diſcoveries, it has, till of late, made but ſlow progreſs. It muſt however be acknowledged, to the honour of this country, that inoculation has met with a more favourable reception here than among any of our neighbours. It is ſtill however far from being general, which we have reaſon to fear will ever be the caſe, ſo long as the practice continues in the hands of the Faculty.

No diſcovery can ever be of general utility while the practice of it is kept in the hands of a few. Had the inoculation of the ſmall-pox been introduced as a faſhion, and not as a medical diſcovery, or had it been practiſed by the ſame kind of operators here as it is in thoſe countries from whence we had it, it had long ago been univerſal.

The

The fears, the jealouſies, the prejudices, and the oppoſite intereſts of the Faculty, are, and ever will be, the moſt effectual obſtacles to the progreſs of any ſalutary diſcovery. Hence it is that the practice of inoculation never became, in any meaſure, general, even in England, till taken up by men not bred to phyſic. Theſe have not only rendered the practice more extenſive, but likewiſe more ſafe, and, by acting under leſs reſtraint than the regular practitioners, have taught them that the patient's greateſt danger aroſe, not from the want of care, but from the exceſs of it.

They know very little of the matter, who impute the ſucceſs of modern inoculators to any ſuperior ſkill, either in preparing the patient or communicating the diſeaſe. Some of them indeed, from a ſordid deſire of ingroſſing the whole practice to themſelves, pretend to have extraordinary ſecrets or noſtrums for preparing perſons for inoculation, which never fail of ſucceſs. But this is only a pretence calculated to blind the ignorant and inattentive. Common ſenſe and prudence alone are ſufficient both in the choice of the ſubject and management of the operation. Whoever is poſſeſſed of theſe may perform this office for his children whenever he finds it convenient, provided they be in a good ſtate of health.

This ſentiment is not the reſult of theory, but of obſervation. Though few phyſicians have had more opportunities of trying inoculation in all its different

different forms, ſo little appears to me to depend on theſe, generally reckoned important circumſtances, of preparing the body, communicating the infection by this or the other method, &c. that for ſeveral years paſt I have cauſed the parents or nurſes perform the whole themſelves, and have found that method followed with equal ſucceſs, while it is free from many inconveniencies that attend the other.

A CRITICAL ſituation, too often to be met with, firſt put me upon trying this method. A gentleman who had loſt all his children except one ſon by the natural ſmall-pox, was determined to have him inoculated. He told me his intention, and deſired I would perſuade the mother and grandmother, &c. of its propriety. But that was impoſſible. They were not to be perſuaded, and either could not get the better of their fears, or were determined againſt conviction. It was always a point with me, not to perform the operation without the conſent of parties concerned. I therefore adviſed the father, after giving his ſon a doſe or two of rhubarb, to go to a patient who had the ſmall-pox of a good kind, to open two or three of the puſtules, taking up the matter with a little cotton, and as ſoon as he came home to take his ſon apart, and give his arm a ſlight ſcratch with a pin, afterwards to rub the place well with the cotton, and take no further notice of it. All this he punctually performed; and at the uſual period the ſmall-pox made their appearance, which

which were of an exceeding good kind, and ſo mild as not to confine the boy an hour to his bed. None of the other relations knew but the diſeaſe had come in the natural way till the patient was well.

We do not propoſe this as the only method in which the ſmall-pox can be communicated. Experience teaches us that it may be done various ways with equal ſucceſs. In Turkey, from whence we learned the practice, the women communicate the diſeaſe to children, by opening a bit of the ſkin with a needle, and putting into the wound a little matter taken from a ripe puſtule. On the coaſt of Barbary they paſs a thread wet with the matter through the ſkin, between the thumb and fore-finger; and in Europe inoculation is generally performed by making a ſmall inciſion through the cuticle of the arm or leg with a lancet, and laying a bit of thread wet with the matter upon the wound, which is covered with a piece of ſticking plaſter, and kept on for two or three days.

Some of the people in England who make a trade of inoculation, only open one of the ripe puſtules with a lancet, and while it is wet with the matter make a ſlight inciſion in the arm of the perſon to whom they want to communicate the diſeaſe; afterwards they cloſe up the wound, and leave it without any other dreſſing. It is likewiſe done with a lancet covered with the dry matter, but this is leſs certain. It frequently fails, and

ought never to be depended upon unleſs where freſh matter cannot be had.

Indeed, if freſh matter be applied long enough to the ſkin, there is no occaſion for any wound at all. Let a bit of thread, about half an inch long, wet with the matter, be immediately applied to the arm, midway between the ſhoulder and elbow, and covered with a piece of the common ſticking plaſter, and kept on for eight or ten days. This will ſeldom fail to communicate the diſeaſe. We mention this method becauſe many people are afraid of a wound; and doubtleſs the more eaſily the operation can be performed, it has the greater chance to become general. Some people imagine, that the diſcharge from a wound leſſens the eruption; but there is no great ſtreſs to be laid upon this notion: Beſides, deep wounds often ulcerate, and become troubleſome.

We do not find that inoculation is at all conſidered as a medical operation in thoſe countries from whence we learned it. In Turkey it is performed by the women, and in the Eaſt Indies by the Brachmins or Prieſts. In this country the cuſtom is ſtill in its infancy; we make no doubt however but it will ſoon become ſo familiar, that parents will think no more of inoculating their children, than at preſent they do of giving them a doſe of phyſic.

No ſet of men have it ſo much in their power to render the practice of inoculation general as the clergy, the greateſt oppoſition to it ſtill ariſing fr om

from ſome ſcruples of conſcience, which they alone can remove. We would recommend it to them not only to endeavour to remove the religious objections which weak minds may have to this ſalutary practice, but to enjoin it as a duty, and to point out the danger of neglecting to make uſe of a mean which Providence has put in our power for ſaving the lives of our offſpring. Surely ſuch parents as wilfully neglect the means of ſaving their children's lives, are as guilty as thoſe who put them to death. We wiſh this matter were duly weighed. No one is more ready to make allowance for human weakneſs and religious prejudices, yet I cannot help recommending it, in the warmeſt manner, to parents to conſider how great an injury they do their children, by neglecting to give them this diſeaſe in the early period of life.

THE numerous advantages ariſing from the inoculation of the ſmall-pox, have been pretty fully pointed out by the learned Dr. M'Kenzie in his Hiſtory of Health *. To theſe we ſhall only add, that ſuch as have not had the ſmall-pox in the early period of life, are not only rendered unhappy, but likewiſe,

* "Many and great, ſays this humane author, are the dangers attending the natural infection, from all which the inoculation is quite ſecure. The natural infection may invade weak or diſtempered bodies, by no means diſpoſed for its kindly reception. It may attack them at a ſeaſon of the year either violently hot or intenſely cold. It may be communicated from a ſort of ſmall-pox impregnated with the utmoſt virulence. It may lay hold upon people unexpectedly, when a

likewiſe, in a great meaſure, unfit for ſuſtaining many of the moſt uſeful and important offices. Few people would chuſe even to hire a ſervant

dangerous ſort is imprudently imported into a maritime place. It may ſurpriſe us ſoon after exceſſes committed in luxury, intemperance or lewdneſs. It may likewiſe ſeize on the innocent after indiſpenſible watchings, hard labour, or neceſſary journies. And is it a trivial advantage, that all theſe unhappy circumſtances can be prevented by inoculation? By inoculation numbers are ſaved from deformity as well as from death. In the natural ſmall-pox, how often are the fineſt features, and the moſt beautiful complexions miſerably disfigured? Whereas inoculation rarely leaves any ugly marks or ſcars, even where the number of puſtules on the face have been very conſiderable, and the ſymptoms by no means favourable. And many other grievous complaints, that are frequently ſubſequent to the natural ſort, ſeldom follow the artificial. Does not inoculation alſo prevent thoſe inexpreſſible terrors that perpetually haraſs perſons who never had this diſeaſe, inſomuch that when the ſmall-pox is epidemical, intire villages are depopulated, markets ruined, and the face of diſtreſs ſpread over the whole country? From this terror it ariſes, that juſtice is frequently poſtponed, or diſcouraged at ſeſſions or aſſizes where the ſmall-pox rages. Witneſſes and juries dare not appear; and, by reaſon of the neceſſary abſence of ſome gentlemen, our honourable and uſeful judges are not attended with that reverence and ſplendor due to their office and merit. Does not inoculation in like manner prevent our brave ſailors from being ſeized with this diſtemper on ſhipboard, where they muſt quickly ſpread the infection among ſuch of the crew who never had it before, and where they have ſcarce any chance to eſcape, being half-ſtifled with the cloſeneſs of their cabins, and but very indifferently nurſed? Laſtly, with regard to the ſoldiery, the miſeries attending theſe poor creatures, when attacked by the ſmall-pox on a march, is inconceivable, without attendance, without lodgings, without any accommodation; ſo that one of three commonly periſhes."

who

who had not had the ſmall-pox, far leſs to purchaſe a ſlave who had the chance of dying of this diſeaſe. How could a phyſician or a ſurgeon, who had never had the ſmall-pox himſelf, attend others under that malady? How deplorable is the ſituation of females, who arrive at mature age without having had the ſmall-pox! A woman with child ſeldom ſurvives this diſeaſe: And if an infant happens to be ſeized with the ſmall-pox upon the mother's breaſt who has not had the diſeaſe herſelf, the ſcene muſt be diſtreſſing! If ſhe continues to ſuckle the child, it is at the peril of her own life; and if ſhe weans it, in all probability it will periſh. How often is the affectionate mother forced to leave her houſe, and abandon her children, at the very time when her care is moſt neceſſary? Yet ſhould parental affection get the better of her fears, the conſequences would often prove fatal. I have known the affectionate mother and her ſucking infant laid in the ſame grave, both untimely victims to this dreadful malady. But theſe are ſcenes too ſhocking even to mention. Let parents who run away with their children to avoid the ſmall-pox, or who refuſe to inoculate them in infancy, conſider to what deplorable ſituations they may be reduced by this miſtaken tenderneſs.

As the ſmall-pox has now become a conſtitutional diſeaſe in moſt parts of the known world, no other choice remains but to render the malady as mild as poſſible; this is the only manner of extirpation now left in our power; and, though it may

ſeem paradoxical, the artificial method of communicating the diſeaſe, could it be rendered univerſal, would amount to nearly the ſame thing as rooting it out. It is a matter of ſmall conſequence, whether a diſeaſe be entirely extirpated, or rendered ſo mild as neither to deſtroy life nor hurt the conſtitution; but that this may be done by inoculation, does not now admit of a doubt. The numbers who die under inoculation hardly deſerve to be named. In the natural way, one in four or five generally dies; but by inoculation not one of a thouſand. Nay, ſome can boaſt of having inoculated ten thouſand without the loſs of a ſingle patient.

I HAVE often wiſhed to ſee ſome plan eſtabliſhed for rendering this ſalutary practice univerſal; but am afraid I ſhall never be ſo happy. The difficulties indeed are many; yet the thing is by no means impracticable. The aim is great; no leſs than ſaving the lives of one-fourth part of mankind. What ought not to be attempted, in order to accompliſh ſo deſirable an end?

THE firſt ſtep towards rendering the practice univerſal, muſt be to remove the religious prejudices againſt it. This, as already obſerved, can only be done by the clergy. They muſt not only recommend it as a duty to others, but likewiſe practiſe it on their own children. Example will ever have more influence than precept.

THE next thing requiſite is to put it in the power of all. For this purpoſe we would recommend it

to

to the Faculty to inoculate the children of the poor *gratis*. It is hard that ſo uſeful a part of mankind ſhould, by their poverty, be excluded from ſuch a benefit.

Should this fail, it is ſurely in the power of any State to render the practice general, at leaſt as far as their dominion extends. We do not mean, that it ought to be inforced by a law. The beſt way to promote it would be to employ a ſufficient number of operators at the public expence to inoculate the children of the poor. This would only be neceſſary till the practice became general; afterwards cuſtom, the ſtrongeſt of all laws, would oblige every individual to inoculate his children to prevent reflections.

It may be objected to this ſcheme, that the poor would refuſe to employ the inoculators: This difficulty is eaſily removed. A ſmall premium to enable mothers to attend their children while under the diſeaſe, would be a ſufficient inducement; beſides, the ſucceſs attending the operation would ſoon baniſh all objections to it. Even conſiderations of profit would induce the poor to embrace this plan. They often bring up their children to the age of ten or twelve, and when they come to be uſeful, they are ſnatched away by this malady, to the great loſs of their parents and detriment of the public.

The Britiſh legiſlature has, of late years, ſhewn great attention to the preſervation of infant lives, by ſupporting the foundling-hoſpital, &c. But

we will venture to ſay, if one tenth part of the ſums laid out in ſupporting that inſtitution, had been beſtowed towards promoting the practice of inoculation of the ſmall-pox among the poor, that not only more uſeful lives had been ſaved, but the practice ere now rendered quite univerſal in this iſland. It is not to be imagined what effect example and a little money will have upon the poor; yet, if left to themſelves, they would go on for ever in the old way, without thinking of any improvement. We only mean this as a hint to the humane and public ſpirited. Should ſuch a ſcheme be approved, a proper plan might eaſily be laid down for the execution of it.

But as public plans are very difficult to bring about, and often, by the ſelfiſh views or miſconduct of thoſe intruſted with the execution of them, fail of anſwering the noble purpoſes for which they were deſigned; we ſhall therefore point out ſome other methods by which the benefits of inoculation may be extended to the poor.

There is no doubt but inoculators will daily become more numerous. We would therefore have every pariſh in Britain to allow one of them a ſmall annual ſalary for inoculating all the children of the pariſh at a proper age. This might be done at a very trifling expence, and it would put it in the power of all to enjoy the benefit of this ſalutary invention.

Two things chiefly operate to prevent the progreſs of inoculation. The one is a wiſh to put the evil

evil day as far off as poſſible. This is a principle in our nature; and as inoculation ſeems rather to be anticipating a future evil, it is no wonder mankind are ſo averſe to it. But this objection is ſufficiently anſwered by the ſucceſs. Who in his ſenſes would not prefer a leſſer evil to-day to a greater to-morrow, provided they were equally certain?

The other obſtacle is the fear of reflections. This has very great weight with the bulk of mankind. Should the child die, they think the world would blame them. This they cannot bear. Here lies the difficulty which pinches, and till that be removed, inoculation will make but ſmall progreſs. Nothing however can remove it but cuſtom. Make the practice faſhionable, and all objections will ſoon vaniſh. It is faſhion alone that has led the multitude ſince the beginning of the world, and will lead them to the end. We muſt therefore call upon the more enlightened part of mankind to ſet a pattern to the reſt. Their example, though it may for ſome time meet with oppoſition, will at length prevail.

I am aware of an objection to this practice from the expence with which it may be attended; this is eaſily obviated. We do not mean that every pariſh ought to employ a Sutton or a Dimſdale as inoculators. Theſe have, by their ſucceſs, already recommended themſelves to crowned heads, and are beyond the vulgar reach; but have not others an equal chance to ſucceed? They certainly

certainly have. Let them make the ſame trial, and the difficulties will ſoon vaniſh. There is not a pariſh, and hardly a village in Britain, deſtitute of ſome perſon who can bleed. But this is a far more difficult operation, and requires both more ſkill and dexterity than inoculation.

The perſons to whom we would chiefly recommend the performance of this operation are the clergy. Moſt of them know ſomething of medicine. Almoſt all of them bleed, and can order a purge, which are all the qualifications neceſſary for the practice of inoculation. The Prieſts among the leſs enlightened Indians perform this office, and why ſhould a Chriſtian teacher think himſelf above it? Surely the bodies of men, as well as their ſouls, merit a part of the paſtor's care; at leaſt the greateſt Teacher who ever appeared among men ſeems to have thought ſo.

Should all other methods fail, we would recommend it to parents to perform the operation themſelves. Let them take any method of communicating the diſeaſe they pleaſe, provided the ſubject be healthy, and of a proper age, they will ſeldom fail to ſucceed to their wiſh. I have known many inſtances of parents performing the operation, and never ſo much as heard of one bad conſequence. A planter in one of the Weſt India iſlands is ſaid to have inoculated, with his own hand, in one year, three hundred of his ſlaves, who, notwithſtanding the warmth of the climate, and

and other unfavourable circumſtances, all did well. Common mechanics have often, to my knowledge, performed the operation with as good ſucceſs as phyſicians. We do not however mean to diſcourage thoſe who have it in their power from employing people of ſkill to inoculate their children, and attend them while under the diſeaſe, but only to ſhew, that where ſuch cannot be had, the operation ought not upon that account to be neglected.

Instead of multiplying arguments to recommend this practice, I ſhall juſt beg leave to mention the method which I took with my own ſon, then an only child. After giving him two gentle purges, I ordered the nurſe to take a bit of thread which had been previouſly wet with freſh matter from a pock, and to lay it upon his arm, covering it with a piece of ſticking plaſter. This ſtaid on ſix or ſeven days, till it was rubbed off by accident. At the uſual time the ſmall-pox made their appearance, and were exceedingly favourable. Sure this, which is all that is generally neceſſary, may be done without any ſkill in medicine.

The ſpring and autumn have been uſually reckoned the moſt proper ſeaſons for inoculation, on account of the weather being then moſt temperate; but it ought to be conſidered that theſe are generally the moſt unhealthy ſeaſons of the whole year. Undoubtedly the beſt preparation for the diſeaſe is a previous good ſtate of health. I have always obſerved that children in particular

are more ſickly towards the end of ſpring and beginning of ſummer, than at any other time of the year. On this account, I would propoſe the beginning of winter as the moſt proper ſeaſon for inoculation; though, on every other conſideration, the ſpring or autumn would ſeem to be preferable.

The moſt proper age for inoculation is betwixt three and five. Many diſagreeable circumſtances attend inoculating children ſooner, which we have not time to enumerate. Neither ſhould the operation be too long delayed. When the fibres begin to grow rigid, and children make uſe of groſſer food, the ſmall-pox become more dangerous.

Children who have conſtitutional diſeaſes, muſt nevertheleſs be inoculated. It will often mend the habit of body; but ought to be performed at a time when they are moſt healthy. Accidental diſeaſes ſhould always be removed before inoculation.

It is generally thought neceſſary to regulate the diet for ſome time before the diſeaſe be communicated. In children, however, great alteration in diet is ſeldom neceſſary, their food being commonly of the moſt ſimple and wholeſome kind; as milk, water-pap, weak broths, bread, light pudding, mild roots, and white meats.

But children who have been accuſtomed to a hotter diet, who are of a groſs habit, or abound with bad humours, ought to be put upon a ſpare diet before

before they be inoculated. Their food ſhould be of a light cooling nature; and their drink whey, butter milk, and ſuch like.

We would recommend no other medicinal preparation but two or three mild purges, which ought to be ſuited to the age and ſtrength of the patient. It is no doubt poſſible by purgative and mercurial medicines, and a very cool regimen, to leſſen the eruption; but it ſeldom happens, that the eruption by inoculation proves too great; and we have always obſerved, that thoſe children who had a pretty free eruption, and where the pox filled well, enjoyed the beſt health afterwards.

The regimen during the diſeaſe muſt be the ſame as under the natural ſmall-pox. The patient muſt be kept cool, his diet muſt be light, and his drink weak and diluting, *&c.* Should any bad ſymptoms appear, which is ſeldom the caſe, they muſt be treated in the ſame way as directed in the natural ſmall-pox. Purging is not leſs neceſſary after the ſmall-pox by inoculation, than in the natural way, and ought by no means to be neglected *.

* It has been a queſtion among phyſicians whether any danger would attend inoculation ſuppoſing the patient to have had the diſeaſe before. This queſtion has generally been anſwered in the negative; but, from ſeveral facts which have occurred in my practice, I am inclined to think it merits further conſideration. April 1764, in order to ſatisfy her relations, I inoculated a girl about ſix years of age, who, there was ſome reaſon to believe, had had the ſmall-pox before.

fore. She had no eruption, except a very few ſmall hard puſtules reſembling warts, which never ſuppurated, nor ſeemed to contain any matter. They diſappeared, and a putrid fever enſued, which ended in an almoſt univerſal mortification of the whole body, of which ſhe died.

A gentleman of my acquaintance, who practiſed inoculation very extenſively, had taken as much matter from a patient in the ſmall-pox as was ſufficient to inoculate 40 or 50 others. For this he had been obliged to open a good many puſtules, and, while his hands were daubed with the matter, happening to cut one of his fingers, he immediately put his thumb upon it, to keep in the blood, and held it there for ſome time, till a rag was got with which he bound up the wound, and took no further notice of it. About eight days after he began to feel an unuſual wearineſs upon the leaſt motion, and complained of a dull pain of his head and loins, with a liſtleſſneſs and want of appetite. On the ninth or tenth in the evening he complained of ſickneſs, and was actually ſeized with a ſyncope or fainting fit. Next morning an eruption appeared, which was pretty univerſal, but thickeſt upon the limbs. This had indeed more the appearance of a raſh than of ſmall-pox; but as it appeared about the ſame time after receiving the wound that the ſmall-pox generally do after inoculation, as the ſymptoms previous to the eruption were the ſame with thoſe which uſually precede the eruption of the ſmall-pox, as the eruption continued upon the ſkin about the ſame number of days that the ſmall-pox generally do, *&c.* there ſeemed to be a good deal of reaſon to conclude that the diſeaſe had proceeded from a quantity of the variolous matter which had been introduced into the blood by the wound. This patient indeed recovered by the help of medicine and a good conſtitution; but had the latter been wanting, which was the caſe with the firſt-mentioned patient, he might have ſhared the ſame fate. N. B. This gentleman had had both the ſmall-pox and meaſles in the natural way many years before.

Several

Several other cafes have occurred to me where the conſtitution ſeemed to ſuffer by the variolous matter having been introduced into the blood without producing what could properly be called the ſmall-pox. This ought, at leaſt, to make practitioners careful not to communicate the poiſon unleſs where there is a proſpect of exciting the diſeaſe. Neither ought they to be too ſolicitous in ſuppreſſing the eruption, as that ſeems to be the only ſafe way in which the *virus* can be diſcharged after it has got into the blood.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXIV.

OF THE MEASLES.

THE meaſles appeared in Europe about the ſame time with the ſmall-pox, and have a great affinity to that diſeaſe. They both came from the Eaſt, are both infectious, and ſeldom attack people more than once. The meaſles are moſt common in the ſpring ſeaſon, and generally diſappear in ſummer. The diſeaſe itſelf, when properly managed, ſeldom proves fatal; but its conſequences are often very troubleſome.

CAUSE.——This diſeaſe, like the ſmall-pox, proceeds from infection, and is more or leſs dangerous according to the conſtitution of the patient, the ſeaſon of the year, the climate, *&c.*

SYMPTOMS.——The meaſles, like other fevers, are preceded by alternate fits of heat and cold, with ſickneſs, and loſs of appetite. The tongue is white, but generally moiſt. There is a ſhort cough, a heavineſs of the head and eyes, drowſineſs, and a running at the noſe. Sometimes indeed the cough does not come before the eruption has appeared. The eye-lids frequently ſwell ſo as to occaſion blindneſs. The patient generally complains of his throat; and a vomiting or looſeneſs often

precedes

precedes the eruption. The ſtools in children are commonly greeniſh; they complain of an itching of the ſkin, and are remarkably peeviſh. Bleeding at the noſe is common, both before and in the progreſs of the diſeaſe.

About the fourth day, ſmall ſpots, reſembling flea-bites, appear, firſt upon the face, then upon the breaſt, and afterwards on the extremities: Theſe may be diſtinguiſhed from the ſmall-pox by their ſcarcely riſing above the ſkin. The fever, cough, and difficulty of breathing, inſtead of being removed by the eruption, as in the ſmall-pox, are rather increaſed; but the vomiting generally ceaſes.

About the ſixth or ſeventh day from the time of ſickening, the meaſles begin to turn pale on the face, and afterwards upon the body; ſo that by the ninth day they entirely diſappear. The fever however, and difficulty of breathing, often continue, eſpecially if the patient has been kept upon too hot a regimen. Petechiæ, or purple ſpots, may likewiſe be occaſioned by this error.

A violent looſeneſs ſometimes ſucceeds the meaſles; in which caſe the patient's life is in imminent danger.

Such as die of the meaſles generally expire about the ninth day from the inva ſion, and are commonly carried off by a peripneumony, or inflammation of the lungs.

The moſt favourable ſymptoms are a moderate looſeneſs, a moiſt ſkin, and a plentiful diſcharge of urine.

When the eruption ſuddenly falls in, and the patient is ſeized with a delirium, he is in the greateſt danger. If the meaſles turn too ſoon of a pale colour, it is an unfavourable ſymptom, as are alſo great weakneſs, vomiting, reſtleſſneſs, and difficulty of ſwallowing. Purple or black ſpots appearing among the meaſles, are very unfavourable. When a continual cough, with hoarſeneſs, ſucceeds the diſeaſe, there is reaſon to ſuſpect an approaching conſumption of the lungs.

Our buſineſs in this diſeaſe is to aſſiſt Nature by proper cordials, in throwing out the morbific matter, if her efforts be too languid; but when they are too violent, they muſt be reſtrained by evacuations, and cool diluting liquors, *&c.* We ought likewiſe to endeavour to appeaſe the moſt urgent ſymptoms, as the cough, reſtleſſneſs, and difficulty of breathing.

REGIMEN.——The cool regimen is neceſſary here as well as in the ſmall-pox. The food too muſt be light and the drink diluting. Acids however do not anſwer ſo well here as in the ſmall-pox, as they tend to exaſperate the cough. Small beer likewiſe, though a good drink in the ſmall-pox, is here improper. The moſt ſuitable liquors are decoctions of liquorice with marſh mallow roots

roots and ſarſaparilla, infuſions of linſeed, or of the flowers of elder, balm tea, clarified whey, barley-water, and ſuch like. Theſe, if the belly be bound, may be ſweetened with honey; or, if that ſhould diſagree with the ſtomach, a little manna may occaſionally be added to them.

MEDICINE.——The meaſles being an inflammatory diſeaſe, without any critical diſcharge of matter, as in the ſmall-pox, bleeding is commonly neceſſary, eſpecially when the fever runs high, with difficulty of breathing, and great oppreſſion of the breaſt. But if the diſeaſe be of a mild kind, bleeding may be omitted.

BATHING the feet and legs frequently in lukewarm water both tends to abate the violence of the fever, and to promote the eruption.

THE patient is often greatly relieved by vomiting. When there is a tendency this way, it ought not to be ſtopped, but encouraged by drinking lukewarm water, or weak camomile tea.

WHEN the cough is very troubleſome, with dryneſs of the throat, and difficulty of breathing, the patient may hold his head over the ſteam of warm water, and draw the ſteam into his lungs.

HE may likewiſe lick a little ſperma ceti and ſugar-candy pounded together; or take now and then a ſpoonful of the oil of ſweet almonds, with

ſugar-candy diſſolved in it. Theſe will ſoften the throat, and relieve the tickling cough.

In caſe the meaſles ſhould ſuddenly diſappear, it will be neceſſary to purſue the ſame method which we have recommended when the ſmall-pox recede. The patient muſt be ſupported with wine and cordials. Bliſtering plaſters muſt be applied to the legs and arms, and the body rubbed all over with warm flannels. Warm poultices may likewiſe be applied to the feet and palms of the hands.

When purple or black ſpots appear, the patient's drink ſhould be ſharpened with ſpirits of vitriol; and if the putrid ſymptoms increaſe, the Peruvian bark muſt be adminiſtered in the ſame manner as directed in the ſmall-pox.

Opiates are ſometimes neceſſary, but ſhould never be given except in caſes of extreme reſtleſſneſs, a violent looſeneſs, or when the cough is very troubleſome. For children, the ſyrup of poppies is ſufficient. A tea-ſpoonful or two may be occaſionally given, according to the patient's age, or the violence of the ſymptoms.

After the meaſles are gone off, it is generally proper to give the patient a doſe or two of phyſic. This may be conducted in the ſame manner as directed in the ſmall-pox.

If a violent looſeneſs ſucceeds the meaſles, it may be checked by taking for ſome days a gentle doſe

doſe of rhubarb in the morning, and an opiate over night; but if theſe do not remove it, bleeding will ſeldom fail to have that effect.

PATIENTS recovering after the meaſles ſhould be very careful what they eat or drink. Their food, for ſome time, ought to be light, and in ſmall quantities, and their drink diluting, and rather of an opening nature; as butter-milk, whey, and ſuch like. They ought alſo to beware of expoſing themſelves too ſoon to the cold air, leſt a ſuffocating catarrh, an aſthma, or a conſumption of the lungs ſhould enſue.

SHOULD a cough, with difficulty of breathing, and other ſymptoms of a conſumption, remain after the meaſles, ſmall quantities of blood may be frequently let at proper intervals, as the patient's ſtrength and conſtitution will permit. He ought likewiſe to drink aſſes milk, to remove to a free air, if in a large town, and to ride daily on horſeback. He muſt keep cloſe to a diet conſiſting of milk and vegetables; and laſtly, if theſe do not ſucceed, let him remove to a warmer climate *.

OF

* Attempts have been made to communicate the meaſles, as well as the ſmall-pox, by inoculation, and we make no doubt but in time the practice will ſucceed very well. Dr. Home of Edinburgh ſays, he communicated the diſeaſe by the blood. Others have tried this method, and have not found it ſucceed. Some think the diſeaſe would be more certainly communicated by rubbing the ſkin of a patient who has the meaſles with cotton, and afterwards applying the cotton to a

 wound,

OF THE SCARLET FEVER.

THE ſcarlet fever is ſo called from the colour of the patient's ſkin, which appears as if it were tinged with red wine. It happens at any ſeaſon of the year, but is moſt common towards the end of ſummer; at which time it often ſeizes whole families, eſpecially children.

IT begins, like other fevers, with coldneſs and ſhivering, without any violent ſickneſs. Afterwards the ſkin is covered with red ſpots, which are broader, more florid, and leſs uniform than the meaſles. They continue two or three days, and then diſappear; after which the cuticle, or ſcarf-ſkin falls off.

THERE is ſeldom any occaſion for medicine in this diſeaſe. The patient ought however to keep within doors, to abſtain from fleſh, ſtrong liquors, and cordials, and to take plenty of cool diluting

wound, as in the ſmall-pox; while others recommend a bit of flannel which had been applied to the patient's ſkin all the time of the diſeaſe, to be afterwards laid upon the arm or leg of the perſon to whom the infection is to be communicated. There is no doubt but this diſeaſe, as well as the ſmall-pox, may be communicated various ways; the moſt probable however is either from cotton rubbed upon the ſkin as mentioned above, or by introducing a little of the ſharp humour which diſtills from the noſe or eyes of the patient into the blood. It is agreed on all hands that ſuch patients as have been inoculated had the diſeaſe very mildly we therefore wiſh the practice were more general, as the meaſles have of late become very fatal.

drink.

drink. If the fever run high, the belly muſt be kept gently open by emollient clyſters, or ſmall doſes of nitre and rhubarb. A ſcruple of the former, with five grains of the latter, may be taken thrice a-day, or oftener if neceſſary.

CHILDREN and young perſons are ſometimes ſeized, at the beginning of this diſeaſe, with a kind of ſtupor and epileptic fits. In this caſe the feet and legs ſhould be bathed with warm water, a large bliſtering plaſter applied to the neck, and a doſe of the ſyrup of poppies given every night till the patient recovers *.

AFTER the fever is gone off, the patient ought to be purged once or twice.

OF THE BILIOUS FEVER.

WHEN a continual, remitting, or intermitting fever is accompanied with a frequent or copious evacuation of bile, either by vomit or ſtool, the fever is denominated bilious. In Britain the bilious fever generally makes its appearance about the end of ſummer, and ceaſes towards the approach of winter. It is moſt frequent and fatal in warm countries, eſpecially where the ſoil is marſhy, and when great rains are ſucceeded by ſultry heats. Perſons who work without doors, lie in camps, or who are expoſed to the night air, are moſt liable to this kind of fever.

* Sydenham.

If there be ſymptoms of inflammation at the beginning of this fever, it will be neceſſary to bleed, and to put the patient upon the cool diluting regimen recommended in the inflammatory fever. The ſaline draught recommended page 254 may likewiſe be frequently adminiſtered, and the patients body may be kept open by clyſters or mild purgatives. But if the fever ſhould remit or intermit, bleeding will ſeldom be neceſſary. In this caſe a vomit may be adminiſtered, and, if the body be bound, a gentle purge; after which the Peruvian bark will generally complete the cure.

In caſe of a violent looſeneſs, the patient muſt be ſupported with chicken broth, jellies of hartſhorn, and the like; and he may uſe the *white decoction* for his ordinary drink *. If a bloody flux ſhould accompany this fever, it muſt be treated in the manner recommended under the article *dyſentery*.

When there is a burning heat, and the patient does not ſweat, that evacuation may be promoted by giving him, three or four times a day, a table-ſpoonful of Mindererus's ſpirit † mixed in a cup of his ordinary drink.

* The white decoction is made by boiling two ounces of calcined hartſhorn prepared, and two or three drams of gum arabic, in three Engliſh pints of water till only two remain: Afterwards ſtraining the liquor.

† Spirit of Mindererus is made by taking any quantity of the volatile ſal ammoniac, and gradually pouring upon it diſtilled vinegar, till the effervescence ceaſes; the mixture may be occaſionally ſtirred to promote the ſolution of the ſalt.

If

If the bilious fever be attended with the nervous, malignant, or putrid ſymptoms, which is ſometimes the caſe, the patient muſt be treated in the ſame manner as directed under theſe diſeaſes.

After this fever proper care is neceſſary to prevent a relapſe. For this purpoſe the patient, eſpecially towards the end of autumn, ought to continue the uſe of the Peruvian bark for ſome time after he is well. He ought likewiſe to abſtain from all traſhy fruits, new liquors, and every kind of flatulent aliment.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXV.

OF THE ERYSIPELAS, OR ST. ANTHONY'S FIRE.

THIS diſeaſe, which in ſome parts of Britain is called *the roſe*, attacks perſons at any period of life, but is moſt common between the age of thirty and forty. Perſons of a ſanguine or plethoric habit, are moſt liable to it. It often attacks young people, and pregnant women; and ſuch as have once been afflicted with it, are very liable to have it again. Sometimes it is a primary diſeaſe, and at other times only a ſymptom of ſome other malady. Every part of the body is liable to be attacked by an eryſipelas, but it moſt frequently ſeizes the legs or face, eſpecially the latter. It is moſt common in autumn, or when hot weather is ſucceeded by cold and wet.

CAUSES.——The eryſipelas is frequently occaſioned by violent paſſions or affections of the mind; as fear, anger, *&c.* It is likewiſe occaſioned by cold*. When the body has been heated to

* The country people in many parts of Britain call this diſeaſe a *blaſt*, and imagine it proceeds from foul air, or ill wind, as they term it. The truth is, they often lie down to reſt them, when warm and fatigued, upon the damp ground, where

to a great degree, and is immediately expoſed to the cold air, ſo that the perſpiration is ſuddenly checked, an eryſipelas will often enſue. It may alſo be occaſioned by drinking to exceſs, by continuing too long in a warm bath, or by any thing that overheats the blood. If any of the natural evacuations be obſtructed, or in too ſmall quantity, it may cauſe an eryſipelas. The ſame effect will follow from the ſtoppage of artificial evacuations; as iſſues, ſetons, or the like.

SYMPTOMS.——The eryſipelas attacks with ſhivering, thirſt, loſs of ſtrength, pain in the head and back, heat, reſtleſſneſs, and a quick pulſe; to which may be added vomiting, and ſometimes a delirium. On the ſecond, third, or fourth day, the part ſwells, becomes red, and ſmall puſtules appear; at which time the fever generally abates.

When the eryſipelas ſeizes the foot, the parts contiguous ſwell, the ſkin ſhines; and, if the pain be violent, it will aſcend to the leg, and will not bear to be touched.

When it attacks the face, it ſwells, appears red, and the ſkin is covered with ſmall puſtules filled with clear water. One or both eyes are

where they fall aſleep, and lie ſo long as to catch cold, which occaſions the Eryſipelas. This diſeaſe may indeed proceed from other cauſes, but we may venture to ſay, that nine times out of ten it is occaſioned by cold caught after the body has been greatly heated or fatigued.

generally

generally closed with the swelling; and there is a difficulty of breathing. If the mouth and nostrils be very dry, and the patient drowsy, there is reason to suspect an inflammation of the brain.

If the erysipelas affects the breast, it swells, and becomes exceedingly hard, with great pain, and is apt to suppurate. There is a violent pain in the arm-pit on the side affected, where an abscess is often formed.

The event of this disease depends greatly upon the constitution of the patient. It is seldom dangerous; yet I have known it prove fatal to people in the decline of life, who were of a scorbutic habit, or whose humours had been vitiated by irregular living, or unwholesome diet.

If in a day or two the swelling subsides, the heat and pain abate, the colour of the part turns yellow, and the cuticle breaks and falls off in scales, the danger is over.

When the erysipelas is large, deep, and affects a very sensible part of the body, the danger is great. If the red colour changes into a livid or black, it will end in a mortification. Sometimes the inflammation cannot be discussed, but comes to a suppuration; in which case fistulas, a gangrene or mortification, often ensue.

Such as die of this disease are commonly carried off by the fever, which is attended with difficulty of breathing, and sometimes with a delirium and great drowsiness. They generally die about the seventh or eighth day.

REGIMEN,

REGIMEN.——In the eryſipelas the patient muſt neither be kept too hot nor cold, as either of theſe extremes will tend to make it retreat, which is always to be guarded againſt. When the diſeaſe is mild, it will be ſufficient to keep the patient within doors, without confining him to his bed, and to promote the perſpiration by diluting liquors, *&c.*

THE diet ought to be ſlender, and of a moderately cooling and moiſtening quality; as groat-gruel, panado, chicken or barley broth, with cooling herbs and fruits, *&c.* avoiding fleſh, fiſh, ſtrong drink, ſpices, pickles, and all other things that may heat and inflame the blood; the drink may be barley-water, an infuſion of elder flowers, common whey, and ſuch like.

BUT if the pulſe be low, and the ſpirits ſunk, the patient muſt be ſupported with negas, and other things of a cordial nature. His food may be ſago gruel with a little wine, and nouriſhing broths, taken in ſmall quantities, and often repeated. Great care however muſt be taken not to overheat him.

MEDICINE.——In this diſeaſe much miſchief is often done by medicine, eſpecially by external applications. People, when they ſee an inflammation, immediately think that ſomething ought to be applied to it. This indeed is neceſſary in large phlegmons; but in an eryſipelas the ſafer courſe is to apply nothing. Almoſt all ointments, ſalves and plaſters, being of a greaſy nature,

tend

tend rather to obſtruct and repel than promote any diſcharge from the part. At the beginning of this diſeaſe it is neither ſafe to promote a ſuppuration, nor to repel the matter too quickly. The eryſipelas in many reſpects reſembles the gout, and is to be treated with the greateſt caution. Fine wool, or very ſoft flannel, are the ſafeſt applications to the part. Theſe not only defend it from the external air, but likewiſe promote the perſpiration, which has a great tendency to carry off the diſeaſe. In Scotland the common people generally apply a meally cloth to the parts affected, which is far from being improper.

It is a common thing to bleed in the eryſipelas; but this likewiſe requires caution. If however the fever be high, the pulſe hard and ſtrong, and the patient vigorous, it will be proper to bleed; but the quantity muſt be regulated by theſe circumſtances, and the operation repeated or not as the ſymptoms may require. If the patient has been accuſtomed to ſtrong liquors, and the diſeaſe attacks his head, bleeding is abſolutely neceſſary.

Bathing the feet and legs frequently in lukewarm water, when the diſeaſe attacks the face or brain, has an excellent effect. It tends to make a derivation from the head, and ſeldom fails to relieve the patient. When bathing proves ineffectual, poultices, or ſharp ſinapiſms, may be applied to the ſoles of the feet for the ſame purpoſe.

IN cafes where bleeding is requifite, it is likewife neceffary to keep the belly gently open. This may be effected by emollient clyfters, or fmall dofes of nitre and rhubarb. Some indeed recommend very large dofes of nitre in this cafe; but nitre feldom fits eafy on the ftomach when taken in large dofes. It is however one of the beft medicines in this cafe, and when the fever and inflammation run high, half a dram of it, with five or fix grains of rhubarb, may be taken in the patient's ordinary drink, three or four times a-day.

WHEN the eryfipelas leaves the extremities, and feizes the head fo as to occafion a delirium or ftupor, it is abfolutely neceffary to open the belly. If clyfters and mild purgatives fail to have this effect, ftronger ones muft be given. Blifters plafters muft likewife be applied to the neck, or behind the ears, and fharp cataplafms laid to the foles of the feet.

WHEN the inflammation cannot be difcuffed, and the part has a tendency to ulcerate, it will then be proper to promote fuppuration, which may be done by the application of ripening poultices with faffron, warm fomentations, and fuch like.

WHEN the black, livid, or blue colour of the part fhews a tendency to mortification, the Peruvian bark muft be adminiftered. It may be taken along with acids, as recommended in the fmall-pox, or in any other form more agreeable to the patient.

patient. It muſt not however be trifled with, as the patient's life is at ſtake. A dram may be given every two hours, if the ſymptoms be threatening, and cloths dipped in warm camphorated ſpirits of wine, or the tincture of myrrh and aloes, may be applied to the part, and frequently renewed. It may likewiſe be proper in this caſe to apply poultices of the bark, or to foment the part affected with a ſtrong decoction of it.

In what is commonly called the *ſcorbutic eryſipelas*, which continues for a conſiderable time, it will only be neceſſary to give gentle laxatives, and ſuch things as purify the blood, and promote the perſpiration. Thus, after the inflammation has been checked by opening medicines, a decoction of the ſudorific woods, as ſaſſafras and guaiacum, with liquorice-root, may be drank; afterwards a courſe of bitters will be proper *.

Such as are liable to frequent attacks of the eryſipelas ought carefully to guard againſt all violent paſſions; to abſtain from ſtrong liquors,

* The decoction of woods is made by boiling, of guaiacum wood raſped three ounces, raiſins of the ſun ſtoned two ounces, ſaſſafras wood ſhaved one ounce, liquorice root ſliced half an ounce, in an Engliſh gallon of water. The guaiacum and raiſins may be boiled, over a gentle fire, till about one half of the water be conſumed, adding, towards the end, the ſaſſafras and liquorice. The liquor muſt be ſtrained, and ſuffered to reſt for ſome time that the fœces may ſubſide. An Engliſh pint of it may be drank daily.

and all fat, viſcid, and highly nouriſhing food. They ſhould likewiſe take ſufficient exerciſe, carefully avoiding the extremes of heat or cold. Their food ſhould conſiſt chiefly of milk, and ſuch fruits, herbs, and roots, as are of a cooling quality; and their drink ought to be ſmall beer, whey, butter-milk, and ſuch like. They ſhould never ſuffer themſelves to be too long coſtive. If that cannot be prevented by diet alone, it will be proper to take frequently a gentle doſe of rhubarb, cream of tartar, the lenitive electuary, or ſome other mild purgative.

CHAP. XXVI.

OF THE PHRENITIS, OR INFLAMMATION OF THE BRAIN.

THIS is ſometimes a primary diſeaſe, but oftener only a ſymptom of ſome other malady; as the inflammatory, eruptive, or ſpotted fever, &c. It is very common however as a primary diſeaſe in warm climates, and is moſt incident to perſons about the prime or vigour of life. The paſſionate, the ſtudious, and thoſe whoſe nervous ſyſtem is weak, are moſt liable to it.

CAUSES.——This diſeaſe is often occaſioned by night-watching, eſpecially when joined with hard ſtudy: It may likewiſe proceed from hard drinking, anger, grief, or anxiety. It is often occaſioned by the ſtoppage of uſual evacuations; as the bleeding piles in men, the cuſtomary diſcharges of women, &c. Such as imprudently expoſe themſelves to the heat of the ſun, eſpecially by ſleeping without doors in a hot ſeaſon, with their heads uncovered, are often ſuddenly ſeized with an inflammation of the brain, ſo as to awake quite delirious. When repellents are imprudently uſed in an eryſipelas, an inflammation of the brain is ſometimes the conſequence. It

may

may likewiſe be occaſioned by external injuries, as blows or bruiſes upon the head, &c.

SYMPTOMS.——The ſymptoms which uſually precede a true inflammation of the brain are, pain of the head, redneſs of the eyes, a violent fluſhing of the face, diſturbed ſleep, or a total want of it, great dryneſs of the ſkin, coſtiveneſs, a retention of urine, a ſmall dropping of blood from the noſe, ſinging of the ears, and extreme ſenſibility of the nervous ſyſtem.

When the inflammation is formed, the ſymptoms in general are ſimilar to thoſe of the inflammatory fever. The pulſe indeed is often weak, irregular, and trembling; but ſometimes it is hard and contracted. When the brain itſelf is inflamed, the pulſe is always ſoft and low; but when the inflammation only affects the integuments of the brain, *viz.* the dura and pia mater, it is hard. A remarkable quickneſs of hearing is a common ſymptom of this diſeaſe; but that ſeldom continues long. Another uſual ſymptom is a great throbbing or pulſation in the arteries of the neck and temples. The tongue is often black and dry; yet the patient ſeldom complains of thirſt, and even refuſes drink. The mind chiefly runs upon ſuch objects as have before made a deep impreſſion on it; and ſometimes, from a ſullen ſilence, the patient becomes all of a ſudden quite outrageous.

A CONSTANT trembling and ſtarting of the tendons, is an unfavourable ſymptom, as are alſo a ſuppreſſion of urine; a total want of ſleep; a conſtant ſpitting; a grinding of the teeth, which laſt may be conſidered as a kind of convulſion. When a phrenitis ſucceeds an inflammation of the lungs, of the inteſtines, or of the throat, *&c.* it is owing to a tranſlation of the diſeaſe from theſe parts to the brain, and generally proves fatal. Hence we learn the neceſſity of proper evacuations, and the danger of repellents in all inflammatory diſeaſes.

THE favourable ſymptoms are, a free perſpiration or ſweating, a copious diſcharge of blood from the noſe, the bleeding piles, a plentiful diſcharge of urine which lets fall a copious ſediment. Sometimes the diſeaſe is carried off by a looſeneſs, and in women by an exceſſive flow of the *menſes*.

As this diſeaſe often proves fatal in a few days, it requires the moſt ſpeedy applications. When it is prolonged, or improperly treated, it ſometimes ends in madneſs, or a kind of ſtupidity which continues for life.

IN the cure, two things are chiefly to be attended to, *viz.* to leſſen the quantity of blood in the brain, and to retard the circulation towards the head.

REGIMEN.——The patient ought to be kept very quiet. Company, noiſe, and every thing

thing that affects the ſenſes, or diſturbs the imagination, increaſes the diſeaſe. Even too much light is hurtful; for which reaſon the patient's chamber ought to be a little darkened, and he ſhould neither be kept too hot nor cold. It is not however neceſſary to exclude the company of an agreeable friend, as this has a tendency to ſoothe and quiet the mind. Neither ought the patient to be kept too much in the dark, leſt it ſhould occaſion a gloomy melancholy, which is too often the conſequence of this diſeaſe.

The patient muſt, as far as poſſible, be ſoothed and humoured in every thing. Contradiction will ruffle his mind, and increaſe his malady. Even when he calls for things which are not to be obtained, or which might prove hurtful, he is not to be poſitively denied them, but rather put off with the promiſe of having them as ſoon as they can be obtained, or by ſome other excuſe. A little of any thing that the mind is ſet upon, though not quite proper, will hurt the patient leſs than a poſitive refuſal. In a word, whatever he was fond of, or uſed to be delighted with when in health, may here be tried, as pleaſing ſtories, ſoft muſic, or whatever has a tendency to ſoothe the paſſions, and compoſe the mind. Boerhaave propoſes ſeveral mechanical experiments for this purpoſe; as the ſoft noiſe of water diſtilling by drops into a baſon, and the patient trying to

reckon them, *&c.* Any uniform ſound, if low and continued, has a tendency to procure ſleep, and conſequently may be of ſervice.

THE aliment ought to be light, conſiſting chiefly of farinaceous ſubſtances; as panado, and water-gruel ſharpened with jelly of currants, or juice of lemons, ripe fruits roaſted or boiled, jellies, preſerves, *&c.* The drink ſmall, diluting, and cooling; as whey, barley-water, or decoctions of barley and tamarinds, which latter not only renders the liquor more palatable, but likewiſe more beneficial, as they are of an opening nature.

MEDICINES.——In an inflammation of the brain, nothing more certainly relieves the patient than a free diſcharge of blood from the noſe. When this comes of its own accord, it is by no means to be ſtopped, but promoted, by applying cloths dipped in warm water to the part. When bleeding at the noſe does not happen ſpontaneouſly, it may be provoked by putting a ſtraw, or any other ſharp body up the noſtril.

BLEEDING in the temporal arteries greatly relieves the head; but as this operation cannot always be performed, we would recommend in its ſtead bleeding in the jugular veins. When the patient's pulſe and ſpirits are ſo low, that he cannot bear bleeding with the lancet, leeches may

be applied to the temples. Theſe not only draw off the blood more gradually, but by being applied nearer to the part affected, generally give more immediate relief.

A DISCHARGE of blood from the hæmorrhoidal veins is likewiſe of great ſervice, and ought by all means to be promoted. If the patient has been ſubject to the bleeding piles, and that diſcharge has been ſtopped, every method muſt be tried to reſtore it; as the application of leeches to the parts, ſitting over the ſteams of warm water, ſharp clyſters or ſuppoſitories made of honey, aloes, and rock-ſalt.

IF the inflammation of the brain be occaſioned by the ſtoppage of evacuations either natural or artificial, as the menſes, iſſues, ſetons, or ſuch like, all means muſt be uſed to reſtore them as ſoon as poſſible, or to ſubſtitute others in their ſtead.

IF the patient be coſtive, his belly muſt be kept open by emollient clyſters, or gentle purgatives; as manna, rhubarb, cream of tartar, or ſuch like. Theſe may either be given ſeparately or together in ſmall doſes, and repeated as there may be occaſion.

SMALL quantities of nitre ought frequently to be mixed with the patient's drink. Two or three drams, or more, if the caſe be dangerous, may be uſed in the ſpace of twenty-four hours.

The head ſhould be ſhaven, and frequently rubbed with vinegar and roſe-water a little warm. Cloths dipped in it may likewiſe be applied to the temples. The feet ought frequently to be bathed in lukewarm water, and ſoft poultices of bread and milk may be kept conſtantly applied to them.

If the diſeaſe proves obſtinate, and does not yield to theſe medicines, it will be neceſſary to apply a bliſtering plaſter to the whole head.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXVII.

OF THE OPTHALMIA, OR INFLAMMATION OF THE EYES.

THIS diſeaſe may be occaſioned by external injuries; as ſtrokes, duſt thrown into the eyes, *&c.* It is often cauſed by the ſtoppage of cuſtomary evacuations; as the healing of old ſores, drying up of iſſues, the ſuppreſſing of gentle morning ſweats, or of the ſweating of the feet, *&c.* Long expoſure to the night-air, eſpecially in cold northerly winds, or whatever ſuddenly checks the perſpiration, eſpecially after the body has been much heated, is very apt to cauſe an inflammation of the eyes. Viewing ſnow or other white bodies for a long time, or looking ſtedfaſtly at the ſun, a clear fire, or any bright object, will likewiſe occaſion this malady. A ſudden tranſition from darkneſs to very bright light will often have the ſame effect.

NOTHING more certainly occaſions an inflammation of the eyes than night-watching, eſpecially reading or writing by candle-light. Drinking ſpirituous liquors and exceſs of venery, are likewiſe very hurtful to the eyes. The acrid fumes of metals, and of ſeveral kinds of fuel, are alſo pernicious. Sometimes an inflammation of the eyes

eyes proceeds from a venereal taint, and often from a ſcrophulous or gouty habit. It may likewiſe be occaſioned by hairs in the eye-lids turning inwards, and hurting the eyes. Sometimes the diſeaſe is epidemic, eſpecially after wet ſeaſons; and I have frequently known it prove infectious, particularly to thoſe who lived in the ſame houſe with the patient. It may be occaſioned by moiſt air, or living in low, damp houſes, eſpecially in perſons who are not accuſtomed to ſuch ſituations. In children, it often proceeds from imprudently drying up of ſcabbed heads, a running behind the ears, or any other diſcharge of that kind. Inflammations of the eyes often ſucceed the ſmall-pox or meaſles, eſpecially in children of a ſcrophulous habit.

SYMPTOMS.——An inflammation of the eyes is attended with acute pain, heat, redneſs, and ſwelling. The patient is not able to bear the light, and ſometimes he feels a pricking pain, as if his eyes were pierced with a thorn. Sometimes he imagines his eyes are full of motes, or thinks he ſees flies dancing before him. The eyes are filled with a ſcalding rheum, which ruſhes forth in great quantities whenever the patient attempts to look up. The pulſe is generally quick and hard, with ſome degree of fever. When the diſeaſe is violent, the neighbouring parts ſwell, and there is a throbbing or pulſation in the temporal arteries, *&c.*

A SLIGHT

A SLIGHT inflammation of the eyes, eſpecially from an external cauſe, is eaſily cured; but when the diſeaſe is violent, and continues long, it often leaves ſpecks upon the eyes, or dimneſs of ſight, and ſometimes total blindneſs.

IF the patient be ſeized with a looſeneſs, it has a good effect; and when the inflammation paſſes from one eye to another, as it were by infection, it is no unfavourable ſymptom. But when the diſeaſe is accompanied with a violent pain of the head, and continues long, the patient is in danger of loſing his ſight.

REGIMEN.——The diet, unleſs in ſcrophulous caſes, can hardly be too ſpare, eſpecially at the beginning. The patient muſt abſtain from every thing of a heating nature. His food muſt conſiſt chiefly of mild vegetables, weak broths, and gruels. His drink may be barley-water, balm-tea, common whey, and ſuch like.

THE patient's chamber muſt be darkened, or his eyes ſhaded by a cover, ſo as to exclude the light, but not to preſs upon the eyes. He ſhould not look at a candle, the fire, or any luminous object; and ought to avoid all ſmoke, as the fumes of tobacco, or any thing that may cauſe coughing, ſneezing, or vomiting. He ſhould be kept quiet, avoiding all violent efforts, either of body or mind, and encouraging ſleep as much as poſſible.

MEDICINE.

MEDICINE.—This is one of thoſe diſeaſes wherein great hurt is often done by external applications. Almoſt every perſon pretends to be poſſeſſed of a remedy for the cure of ſore eyes. Theſe remedies generally conſiſt of eye-waters and ointments, with other external applications, which do miſchief twenty times for once they do good. People ought therefore to be very cautious how they uſe ſuch things, as the very preſſure upon the eyes often encreaſes the malady.

Bleeding, in a violent inflammation of the eyes, is always neceſſary. This ſhould be performed as near the part affected as poſſible. An adult may loſe ten or twelve ounces of blood from the jugular vein, and the operation may be repeated according to the urgency of the ſymptoms. If it ſhould not be convenient to bleed in the neck, the ſame quantity may be let from the arm, or any other part of the body.

Leeches are often applied to the temples, or under the eyes, with good effect. The wounds muſt be ſuffered to bleed for ſome hours, and if the bleeding ſtop ſoon, it may be promoted by the application of cloths dipt in warm water. In obſtinate caſes, it will be neceſſary to repeat this operation ſeveral times.

Opening and diluting medicines are by no means to be neglected. The patient may take a ſmall doſe of Glauber's ſalts and cream of tartar, every

every ſecond or third day, or a decoction of tamarinds with ſenna. If theſe be not agreeable, gentle doſes of rhubarb and nitre, a little of the lenitive electuary, or any other mild purgative, will anſwer the ſame end. The patient at the ſame time muſt drink freely of water-gruel, tea, whey, or any other weak diluting liquor. He ought likewiſe to take, at bed-time, a large draught of very weak wine-whey, in order to promote perſpiration. His feet and legs muſt frequently be bathed in luke-warm water, and his head ſhaved twice or thrice a-week, and afterwards waſhed in cold water. This has often a remarkably good effect.

If the inflammation does not yield to theſe evacuations, bliſtering plaſters muſt be applied to the temples, behind the ears, or upon the neck, and kept open for ſome time by the mild bliſtering ointment. I never knew theſe, if long enough kept open, fail to remove the moſt obſtinate inflammation of the eyes; but, for this purpoſe, it is often neceſſary to continue the diſcharge for ſeveral weeks.

When the diſeaſe has been of long ſtanding, I have ſeen very extraordinary effects from a ſeton in the neck, or betwixt the ſhoulders, eſpecially the latter. It ſhould be put upwards and downwards, or in the direction of the ſpine, and in the middle between the ſhoulder-blades. It may be dreſſed twice a-day with yellow baſilicon. I have known patients, who had been blind for a conſiderable time,

time, recover ſight by means of a ſeton placed as above. When the ſeton is put acroſs the neck, it ſoon wears out, and is both more painful and troubleſome than between the ſhoulders; beſides, it leaves a diſagreeable mark, and does not diſcharge ſo freely.

When the heat and pain of the eyes is very great, a poultice of bread and milk ſoftened with plenty of ſweet oil or freſh butter, may be applied to them, at leaſt all night; and they may be bathed with lukewarm milk and water every morning.

If the patient cannot ſleep, which is ſometimes the caſe, he muſt take fifteen or twenty drops of laudanum, or two ſpoonfuls of the ſyrup of poppies, over night, more or leſs according to his age, or the violence of the ſymptoms.

After the inflammation is gone off, if the eyes ſtill remain weak and tender, they may be bathed every night and morning with cold water and a little brandy, ſix parts of the former to one of the latter. A method ſhould be contrived by which the eye can be quite immerſed in the brandy and water, where it ſhould be kept for ſometime. I have generally found this, or cold water and vinegar, as good a ſtrengthener of the eyes as any of the moſt celebrated collyriums.

When an inflammation of the eyes proceeds from a ſcrophulous habit, it generally proves very obſtinate.

obſtinate. In this caſe the patient's diet muſt not be too low, and he may be allowed to drink ſmall negas, or now and then a glaſs of wine. The moſt proper medicine is the Peruvian bark, which may either be given in ſubſtance, or prepared in the following manner:

Take an ounce of bark in powder, with two drams of Winter's bark, and boil them in an Engliſh quart of water to a pint; when it has boiled nearly long enough, add half an ounce of liquorice-root ſliced. Let the liquor be ſtrained. Two, three, or four table-ſpoonfuls, according to the age of the patient, may be taken three or four times a-day. It is impoſſible to ſay how long this medicine ſhould be continued, as the cure is ſooner performed in ſome than others; but in general it requires a conſiderable time to produce any laſting effects.

Dr. Cheyne ſays, 'That æthiops mineral never fails in obſtinate inflammations of the eyes, even ſcrophulous ones, if given in a ſufficient doſe, and duly perſiſted in.' There is no doubt but this and other preparations of mercury may be of ſingular ſervice in opthalmias of long continuance, but they ought always to be adminiſtered with the greateſt caution, or by perſons of ſkill in phyſic.

It will be proper frequently to look into the eyes, to ſee if any hairs be turned inwards, or preſſing upon them, in order that they may be cut off without delay.

Such

Such as are liable to frequent returns of this diſeaſe, ought conſtantly to have an iſſue in one or both arms. Bleeding or purging in the ſpring and autumn, will be very beneficial to ſuch perſons. They ought likewiſe to live with the greateſt regularity, avoiding ſtrong liquor, and every thing of a heating quality. Above all, let them avoid the night-air and late ſtudies*.

* As moſt people are fond of making uſe of eye-waters in this diſeaſe, we ſhall recommend the following as one of the beſt which has fallen under our obſervation. Take of bole-armenick finely powdered three ounces; of white vitriol an ounce and a half; of white ſugar-candy three ounces. Mix them in a bottle of ſoft water, and let them ſtand for three or four days, frequently ſhaking them. Afterwards the water muſt be filtred, and a little of it dropt into the eye twice or thrice a-day. A cloth wet with it muſt likewiſe be conſtantly kept on the eye.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXVIII.

OF THE QUINSEY, OR INFLAMMATION OF THE THROAT.

THIS diſeaſe is very common in Britain, and is frequently attended with great danger. It prevails in the winter and ſpring, and is moſt fatal to young people of a ſanguine temperament.

CAUSES.——In general it proceeds from the ſame cauſes as other inflammatory diſorders, *viz.* an obſtructed perſpiration, or whatever heats or inflames the blood. An inflammation of the throat is often occaſioned by omitting ſome part of the covering uſually worn about the neck; by drinking cold liquor when the body is warm, by riding or walking againſt a cold northerly wind, or any thing that greatly cools the throat, and parts adjacent. It may likewiſe proceed from the neglect of bleeding, purging, or any cuſtomary evacuation.

SINGING, ſpeaking aloud and long, or whatever ſtrains the throat, may likewiſe cauſe an inflammation of that organ. I have often known the quinſey prove fatal to jovial companions, who, after ſitting long in a warm room, drinking hot liquors, and ſinging with vehemence, were ſo im-

prudent as to go abroad in the cold night-air. Sitting with wet feet, or keeping on wet clothes, are very apt to occaſion this malady. It is likewiſe frequently occaſioned by continuing long in a moiſt place, ſitting near an open window, ſleeping in a damp bed, ſitting in a room that has been newly plaſtered, *&c.* I know people who never fail to have a ſore throat if they ſit even but a ſhort time in a room that has been lately waſhed.

ACRID or irritating food may likewiſe inflame the throat, and occaſion a quinſey. It may alſo proceed from bones, pins, or other ſharp ſubſtances ſticking in the throat, or from the cauſtic fumes of metals or minerals, as arſenic, antimony, *&c.* taken in by the breath. This diſeaſe is ſometimes epidemic and infectious.

SYMPTOMS.——The inflammation of the throat is evident from inſpection, the parts appearing red and ſwelled; beſides, the patient complains of pain in ſwallowing any thing. His pulſe is quick and hard, with other ſymptoms of a fever. If blood be let, it is generally covered with a tough coat of a whitiſh colour, and the patient ſpits a tough phlegm. As the ſwelling and inflammation increaſe, the breathing and ſwallowing become more difficult; the pain affects the ears; the eyes generally appear red; and the face ſwells. The patient is often obliged to keep himſelf in an erect poſture, being in danger of ſuffocation; there is a conſtant nauſea, or inclination

nation to vomit, and the drink, inſtead of paſſing into the ſtomach, is often returned by the noſe. The patient is frequently ſtarved at laſt, merely from an inability of ſwallowing any kind of food.

When the breathing is laborious, with ſtraitneſs of the breaſt and anxiety, the danger is great. Though the pain in ſwallowing be very great, yet while the patient breathes eaſy, there is not ſo much danger. An external ſwelling is no unfavourable ſymptom; but if it ſuddenly falls, and the diſeaſe affects the breaſt, the danger is very great. When a quinſey is the conſequence of ſome other diſeaſe, which has already weakened the patient, his ſituation is dangerous. A frothing at the mouth, with a ſwelled tongue, a pale, ghaſtly countenance, and coldneſs of the extremities, are fatal ſymptoms.

REGIMEN.——The regimen in this diſeaſe is in all reſpects the ſame as in the pleuriſy or peripneumony. The food muſt be light, and in ſmall quantity, and the drink plentiful, weak, and diluting, mixed with acids.

It is highly neceſſary that the patient be kept eaſy and quiet. Violent affections of the mind, or great efforts of the body, may prove fatal. He ſhould not even attempt to ſpeak but in a low voice. Such a degree of warmth as to promote a conſtant gentle ſweat is proper. When the patient is in bed, his head ought to be raiſed a little higher than uſual.

It is peculiarly neceſſary that the neck be kept warm; for which purpoſe ſeveral folds of ſoft flannel may be wrapt round it. That alone will often remove a ſlight complaint of the throat, eſpecially if applied in due time. We cannot here omit obſerving the propriety of a cuſtom which prevails amongſt the peaſants of this country. When they feel any uneaſineſs of the throat, they wrap a ſtocking about it all night. So effectual is this remedy, that in many places it paſſes for a charm, and the ſtocking is applied with particular ceremonies: The cuſtom however is undoubtedly a good one, and ſhould never be neglected. When the throat has been thus wrapt up all night, it muſt not be expoſed to the cold air through the day, but a handkerchief, or a piece of flannel, kept about it till the inflammation be removed.

The jelly of black currants is a medicine very much in eſteem for complaints of the throat; and indeed it is of conſiderable efficacy. It ſhould be almoſt conſtantly kept in the mouth, and ſwallowed down leiſurely. It may likewiſe be mixed in the patient's drink, or taken any other way. When it cannot be obtained, the jelly of red currants, or of mulberries, may be uſed in its ſtead.

Gargles for the throat are likewiſe very beneficial. They may be made by adding to half an Engliſh pint of the pectoral decoction mentioned page 196, two or three ſpoonfuls of honey, and the ſame quantity of currant-jelly. This may be uſed

uſed three or four times a-day; and if the patient be troubled with tough viſcid phlegm, the gargle may be made more ſharp and cleanſing, by adding to it a tea-ſpoonful of the ſpirit of *ſal ammoniac*. Some recommend gargles made of a decoction of the leaves or bark of the blackberry-buſh; but where the jelly can be had, theſe are unneceſſary.

THERE is no diſeaſe wherein the benefit of bathing the feet and legs in lukewarm water is more apparent: That practice ought therefore never to be neglected. If people were careful to keep warm, to wrap up their throats with flannel, to bathe their feet and legs in warm water, and to uſe a ſpare diet, with diluting liquors, at the beginning of this diſeaſe, it would ſeldom proceed to a a great height, or be attended with any danger; but when theſe precautions are neglected, and the diſeaſe becomes violent, more powerful medicines are neceſſary.

MEDICINE.——An inflammation of the throat being a moſt acute and dangerous diſtemper, which ſometimes takes off the patient very ſuddenly, it will be proper, as ſoon as the ſymptoms appear, to bleed in the arm, or rather in the jugular vein, and to repeat the operation if circumſtances require.

THE belly ſhould likewiſe be kept gently open. This may either be done by giving the patient for his ordinary drink a decoction of figs and tamarinds, or ſmall doſes of rhubarb and nitre,

as recommended in the eryſipelas. Theſe may be increaſed according to the age of the patient, and repeated till they have the deſired effect.

I HAVE often known very good effects from a bit of *ſal prunel*, or purified nitre, held in the mouth, and ſwallowed down as it melted. This promotes the diſcharge of *ſaliva*, by which means it anſwers the end of a gargle, while at the ſame time it abates the fever, by promoting the diſcharge of urine, *&c.*

THE throat ought likewiſe to be rubbed twice or thrice a-day with a little of the volatile liniment. This ſeldom fails to produce ſome good effects. At the ſame time the neck ought to be carefully covered with wool or flannel, to prevent the cold from penetrating the ſkin, as this application renders it very tender. Many other external applications are recommended in this diſeaſe, as a ſwallow's neſt, poultices made of the fungus called Jews ears, album grecum, *&c.* But as we do not look upon any of theſe to be preferable to a common poultice of bread and milk, we ſhall take no further notice of them.

SOME recommend the gum guaiacum as a ſpecific in this diſeaſe. Half a dram of the gum in powder may be made into an electuary with the root of elder for a doſe, and repeated occaſionally.

BLISTERING upon the neck or behind the ears in violent inflammations of the throat, is very beneficial.

beneficial. After the plaſters are taken off, the parts ought to be kept running by the application of ſharp ointment, till the inflammation is gone; otherwiſe, upon their drying up, the patient will be in danger of a relapſe.

When the patient has been treated as above, a ſuppuration ſeldom happens. This however is ſometimes the caſe in ſpite of all our endeavours to prevent it. When the inflammation and ſwelling continue, and it is evident that a ſuppuration will enſue, it ought to be promoted by drawing the ſteam of warm water into the throat through a tunnel, or the like. Soft poultices ought likewiſe to be applied outwardly, and the patient may keep a roaſted fig conſtantly in his mouth.

It ſometimes happens, before the tumour breaks, that the ſwelling is ſo great, as entirely to prevent any thing from getting down into the ſtomach. In this caſe the patient muſt inevitably periſh, unleſs he can be ſupported in ſome other way. This can only be done by nouriſhing clyſters of broth, or gruel with milk, *&c.* Patients have often been ſupported by theſe for ſeveral days, till the tumor has broke; and afterwards they have recovered.

Not only the ſwallowing, but the breathing is often prevented by the tumor. In this caſe nothing can ſave the patient's life, but opening the *trachea* or wind-pipe. As that has been often done with ſucceſs, no perſon, in ſuch deſperate

circumſtances, ought to heſitate a moment about the operation; but as it can only be performed by a ſurgeon, it is not neceſſary here to give any directions about it.

When a difficulty of ſwallowing is not attended with an acute pain or inflammation, it is generally owing to an obſtruction of the glands about the throat, and only requires that the part be kept warm, and the throat frequently gargled with ſomething that may gently ſtimulate the glands, as a decoction of figs with vinegar and honey; to which may be added a little muſtard, or a ſmall quantity of ſpirits. But this kind of gargle is never to be uſed where there are ſigns of an inflammation. This ſpecies of *angina* has various names among the common people, as the *pap of the throat*, the falling down of the *almonds of the ears*, *&c.* Accordingly, to remove it, they lift the patient up by the hair of the head, and thruſt their fingers under his jaws, *&c.*; all which practices are at beſt uſeleſs, and often hurtful.

Thoſe who are ſubject to inflammations of the throat, in order to avoid that diſeaſe, ought to live temperate. Such as do not chuſe to obſerve this rule, muſt have frequent recourſe to purging and other evacuations, to diſcharge the ſuperfluous humours. They ought likewiſe to beware of catching cold, and ſhould abſtain from aliment and medicines of an aſtringent or ſtimulating nature.

Violent exerciſe, by increaſing the motion and force of the blood, is apt to occaſion an inflammation

mation of the throat, eſpecially if cold liquor be drank immediately after it, or the body ſuffered ſuddenly to cool. Thoſe who would avoid this diſeaſe ought therefore, after ſpeaking aloud, ſinging, running, drinking warm liquor, or doing any thing that may ſtrain the throat, or increaſe the circulation of the blood towards it, to take care to cool gradually, and to wrap ſome additional coverings about their necks, *&c.*

I HAVE often known perſons who had been ſubject to ſore throats, entirely freed from that complaint by only wearing a ribband, or a bit of flannel, conſtantly about their necks, or by wearing thicker ſhoes, a flannel waiſtcoat, or the like. Theſe may ſeem trifling, but they have great effect. There is danger indeed in leaving them off after perſons have been accuſtomed to them; but ſurely the inconveniency of uſing ſuch things for life, is not to be compared with the danger which may attend the neglect of them.

SOMETIMES, after an inflammation, the glands of the throat continue ſwelled, and become hard and callous. This complaint is not eaſily removed, and is often rendered dangerous by the too frequent application of ſtrong ſtimulating and ſtyptic medicines. The beſt method is to keep it warm, and to gargle it twice a day with a decoction of figs ſharpened a little with a few drops of the elixir or ſpirit of vitriol.

OF

OF THE MALIGNANT QUINSEY, OR PUTRID, ULCEROUS SORE THROAT.

THIS kind of quinſey is but little known in the northern parts of Britain, though, for ſome time paſt, it has been very fatal in the more ſouthern counties. Children are more ſubject to it than adults, females than males, and the delicate than thoſe who are hardy and robuſt. It prevails moſt in autumn, or after a long courſe of damp, or ſultry weather.

CAUSES.——This is evidently a contagious diſtemper, and is generally communicated by infection. Whole families, and even entire villages often receive the infection from one perſon. This ought to put people upon their guard againſt going near ſuch patients as labour under the diſorder; as by that means they endanger not only their own lives, but likewiſe thoſe of their friends and connections. Whatever tends to produce putrid or malignant fevers, may likewiſe occaſion the putrid ulcerous ſore throat, as unwholeſome air, damaged proviſions, neglect of cleanlineſs, *&c.*

SYMPTOMS.——It begins with alternate fits of ſhivering and heat. The pulſe is quick, but low and unequal, and generally continues ſo through the whole courſe of the diſeaſe. The patient complains greatly of weakneſs and oppreſſion of

of the breaſt; his ſpirits are low, and he is apt to faint away when ſet upright; he is troubled with a nauſea, and often with a vomiting or purging. The two latter are moſt common in children. The eyes appear red and watery, and the face ſwells. The urine is at firſt pale and crude; but, as the diſeaſe advances, it turns more of a yellowiſh colour. The tongue is white, and generally moiſt, which diſtinguiſhes this from an inflammatory diſeaſe. Upon looking into the throat it appears ſwelled, and of a florid red colour. Pale or aſh-coloured ſpots, however, are here and there interſperſed, and ſometimes one broad patch or ſpot, of an irregular figure, and pale white colour, ſurrounded with florid red, only appears. Theſe whitiſh ſpots or ſloughs cover ſo many ulcers.

An efflorescence, or eruption upon the neck, arms, breaſt, and fingers, about the ſecond or third day, is a common ſymptom of this diſeaſe. When it appears, the purging and vomiting generally ceaſe.

There is often a ſlight degree of delirium, and the face frequently appears blotted, and the inſide of the noſtrils red and inflamed. The patient complains of a diſagreeable putrid ſmell, and his breath is very offenſive.

The putrid, ulcerous throat may be diſtinguiſhed from the inflammatory by the vomiting and looſeneſs with which it is generally uſhered in; by the foul ulcers in the throat covered with a white or livid coat; and by the exceſſive weakneſs of the

the patient; with other ſymptoms of a putrid fever.

UNFAVOURABLE ſymptoms are, an obſtinate purging, extreme weakneſs, dimneſs of the ſight, a livid or black colour of the ſpots, and frequent ſhiverings, with a weak, fluttering pulſe. If the eruption upon the ſkin ſuddenly diſappears, or becomes of a livid colour, with a diſcharge of blood from the noſe or mouth, the danger is very great.

IF a gentle ſweat breaks out about the third or fourth day, and continues with a ſlow, firm, and equal pulſe; if the ſloughs caſt off in a kindly manner, and appear clean and florid at the bottom; and if the breathing be ſoft and free, with a lively colour of the eyes, there is reaſon to hope for a ſalutary criſis.

REGIMEN.——The patient muſt be kept quiet, and, for the moſt part, in bed, as he will be apt to faint when taken out of it. His food muſt be nouriſhing and reſtorative; as ſago-gruel with red wine, jellies, ſtrong broths, *&c.* His drink ought to be generous, and of an antiſeptic quality; as red wine negas, white wine whey, and ſuch like.

MEDICINE.——The medicine in this kind of quinſey is entirely different from that which is proper in the inflammatory. All evacuations, as bleeding, purging, *&c.* which weaken the patient, muſt be avoided. Cooling medicines, as nitre and

cream of tartar, are likewiſe hurtful. Strengthening cordials alone can be uſed with ſafety; and theſe ought never to be neglected.

If, at the beginning, there be a great nauſea, or inclination to vomit, the patient muſt drink an infuſion of green tea, camomile flowers, or *carduus benedictus*, in order to cleanſe the ſtomach. If theſe be not ſufficient, he may take a few grains of the powder of ipecacuanha, or any other gentle vomit.

If the diſeaſe be mild, the throat may be gargled with an infuſion of ſage and roſe-leaves, to a gill of which may be added a ſpoonful or two of honey, and as much vinegar as will make it agreeably acid; but, when the ſymptoms are urgent, the ſloughs large and thick, and the breath very offenſive, the following gargle may be uſed *.

It will be of great benefit if the patient frequently receives into his mouth, through an inverted funnel, the ſteams of warm vinegar, myrrh, and honey.

But when the putrid ſymptoms run high, and the diſeaſe is attended with danger, the only me-

* To ſix or ſeven ounces of the pectoral decoction, when boiling, add half an ounce of contrayerva root; let it boil for ſome time, and afterwards ſtrain the liquor; to which add two ounces of white wine vinegar, an ounce of fine honey, and an ounce of the tincture of myrrh. This ought not only to be uſed as a gargle, but a little of it ſhould frequently be injected with a ſyringe to clean the mouth, before the patient takes any meat or drink. This method is peculiarly neceſſary for children, who cannot uſe a gargle.

dicine

dicine that can be depended upon is the Peruvian bark. It may be taken in ſubſtance, if the patient's ſtomach will bear it. If not, an ounce of bark groſsly powdered, with two drams of Virginian ſnake-root, may be boiled in an Engliſh pint and an half of water, to half a pint; to which a tea-ſpoonful of the elixir of vitriol may be added, and an ordinary tea-cupful of it taken every three or four hours. Bliſtering plaſters are very beneficial in this diſeaſe, eſpecially when the patient's pulſe and ſpirits are low. They may be applied to the throat, behind the ears, or upon the back-part of the neck.

Should the vomiting prove troubleſome, it will be proper to give the patient two table-ſpoonfuls of the ſaline julep, page 192, every hour. Tea made of mint and a little cinnamon, will likewiſe be a proper drink, eſpecially if an equal quantity of red wine be mixed with it.

In caſe of a violent looſeneſs, the ſize of a nutmeg of *diaſcordium*, or the japonic confection, may be taken two or three times a-day, or oftener if neceſſary; and the patient's drink muſt be red wine negas.

If a diſcharge of blood from the noſe happens, the ſteams of warm vinegar may be received up the noſtrils frequently; and the drink muſt be ſharpened with ſpirits of vitriol, or tincture of roſes.

In caſe of a ſtrangury, the belly muſt be fomented with warm water, and emollient clyſters given three or four times a-day.

After

After the violence of the diſeaſe is over, the belly ſhould ſtill be kept open with mild purgatives; as manna, ſenna, rhubarb, or the like.

If great weakneſs and dejection of ſpirits, or night-ſweats, with other ſymptoms of a conſumption, ſhould remain after this diſeaſe, we would adviſe the patient to continue the uſe of the Peruvian bark, with the elixir of vitriol, and to take frequently a glaſs of generous wine. Theſe, together with a milk-diet, and riding on horſeback, are the moſt likely means for recovering his ſtrength.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXIX.

OF COLDS AND COUGHS.

IT has already been obſerved, that colds are the effect of an obſtructed perſpiration; the common cauſes of which we have likewiſe endeavoured to point out, and ſhall not here repeat them. Neither ſhall we ſpend time in enumerating all the various ſymptoms of colds, as they are pretty generally known. It may not however be amiſs to obſerve, that almoſt every cold is a kind of fever, which only differs in degree from ſome of thoſe that have already been treated of.

No age, ſex, or conſtitution is exempted from this diſeaſe: neither is it in the power of medicine to prevent it. The inhabitants of every climate are liable to catch cold, nor can even the greateſt circumſpection defend them at all times from its attacks. Indeed, if the human body could be kept conſtantly in an uniform degree of warmth, ſuch a thing as catching cold would be impoſſible: But as that cannot be effected by any means, the perſpiration muſt be liable to many changes. Such changes however, when ſmall, do not affect the health; but, when great, they muſt prove hurtful. Hence the chief ſecret of preventing colds, lies in avoiding,

avoiding, as far as poſſible, all extremes either of heat or cold.

When oppreſſion of the breaſt, a ſtuffing of the noſe, unuſual wearineſs, or a pain of the head, &c. give ground to believe that the perſpiration is obſtructed, or, in other words, that the perſon has caught cold, he ought immediately to leſſen his diet, at leaſt the uſual quantity of his ſolid food, and to abſtain from all ſtrong liquors. Inſtead of fleſh, fiſh, eggs, milk, and other nouriſhing diet, he may eat light bread-pudding, veal or chicken broth, panado, gruels, and ſuch like. His drink may be water-gruel ſweetened with a little honey; an infuſion of balm, or linſeed ſharpened with the juice of orange or lemon; a decoction of barley and liquorice with tamarinds, or any other cool, diluting acid liquor.

Above all, his ſupper ſhould be light; as ſmall poſſet, or water-gruel ſweetened with honey, and a little toaſted bread in it. If honey ſhould diſagree with the ſtomach, the gruel may be ſweetened with treacle or coarſe ſugar, and ſharpened with the jelly of currants. Thoſe who have been accuſtomed to generous liquors may take white wine whey inſtead of gruel, which may be ſweetened as above.

The patient ought to lie longer than uſual a-bed, and to encourage a gentle ſweat, which is eaſily brought on towards morning, by drinking tea, or any kind of warm diluting liquor. I have often known this practice carry off a cold in one day,

which, in all probability, had it been neglected, would have coſt the patient his life, or have confined him for ſome months to his bed. Would people ſacrifice a little time to eaſe and warmth, and practiſe a moderate degree of abſtinence when the firſt ſymptoms of a cold appear, we have reaſon to believe, that moſt of the bad effects which flow from an obſtructed perſpiration, might be prevented. But, after the diſeaſe has gathered ſtrength by delay, all attempts to remove it often prove vain. A pleuriſy, a peripneumony, or a fatal conſumption of the lungs, are the common effects of colds which have either been totally neglected, or treated improperly.

Many attempt to cure a cold, by getting drunk. But this, to ſay no worſe of it, is a very hazardous and fool-hardy experiment. No doubt it may ſometimes ſucceed, by ſuddenly reſtoring the perſpiration; but when there is any degree of inflammation, which is frequently the caſe, ſtrong liquors, inſtead of removing the malady, will increaſe it. By this means a common cold may be converted into an inflammatory fever.

When thoſe who labour for their daily bread have the misfortune to catch cold, they cannot afford to loſe a day or two, in order to keep themſelves warm, and take a little medicine, by which means the diſorder is often ſo aggravated as to confine them for a long time, or even to render them ever after unable to ſuſtain hard labour.

But

But even ſuch of the labouring poor as can afford to take care of themſelves, are often too hardy to do it; they affect to deſpiſe colds, and as long as they can crawl about, ſcorn to be confined by what they call a *common cold*. Hence it comes to paſs, that colds deſtroy ſuch numbers of mankind. Like an enemy deſpiſed, they gather ſtrength from delay, till, at length, they become invincible. We often ſee this verified in travellers, who, rather than loſe a day in the proſecution of their buſineſs, throw away their lives by purſuing their journey with this diſeaſe upon them, even in the coldeſt ſeaſon.

It is certain, however, that colds may be too much indulged. When a perſon, for every ſlight cold, ſhuts himſelf up in a warm room, and drinks great quantities of warm liquor, it may bring on ſuch a general relaxation of the ſolids as will not be eaſily removed. It will therefore be proper, when the diſeaſe will permit, and the weather is mild, to join to the regimen mentioned above, gentle exerciſe; as walking, riding on horſeback, or in a machine, *&c.* An obſtinate cold, which no medicine can remove, will yield to a proper courſe of exerciſe when duly perſiſted in.

Bathing the feet and legs every night in warm water has a great tendency to reſtore the perſpiration. But care muſt be taken that the water be not too warm, otherwiſe it will do hurt. It ſhould never be much warmer than new milk, and the patient ſhould go immediately to bed after uſing

it. Bathing the feet in warm water, lying in bed, and drinking warm water-gruel, or other weak liquors, will ſooner take off a ſpaſm, and reſtore the perſpiration, than all the hot ſudorific medicines in the apothecaries ſhop. This is all that is neceſſary for removing a common cold; and if this courſe be taken at the beginning, it will ſeldom fail.

But when the ſymptoms do not yield to abſtinence, warmth, and diluting liquors, there is reaſon to fear the approach of ſome other diſeaſe, as an inflammation of the breaſt, an ardent fever, *&c.* If the pulſe therefore be hard and frequent, the ſkin hot and dry, and the patient complains of his head or breaſt, it will be neceſſary to bleed, and to give the cooling opening powders recommended in the ſcarlet fever, every three or four hours, till they give a ſtool.

It will likewiſe be proper to put a bliſtering plaſter on the back, to give two table-ſpoonfuls of the ſaline mixture ordered page 192, every two hours, and, in ſhort, to treat the patient in all reſpects as for a ſlight fever. I have often ſeen this courſe, when obſerved at the beginning, remove the complaint in two or three days, when the patient had all the ſymptoms of an approaching ardent fever, or an inflammation of the breaſt.

OF A COMMON COUGH.

A COUGH is generally the effect of a cold, which has either been improperly treated, or entirely neglected. When it proves obſtinate, there is always reaſon to fear the conſequences, as this ſhews a weak ſtate of the lungs, and is often the forerunner of a conſumption.

IF the cough be violent, and the patient young and ſtrong, with a hard quick pulſe, bleeding will be proper; but in weak and relaxed habits, bleeding rather prolongs the diſeaſe. When the patient ſpits freely, bleeding is unneceſſary, and ſometimes hurtful, as it tends to leſſen that diſcharge.

WHEN the cough is not attended with any degree of fever, and the ſpittle is viſcid and tough, ſharp pectoral medicines are to be adminiſtered; as gum ammoniac, ſquills, *&c.* The ſolution of gum ammoniac may be prepared as directed page 209, and two table-ſpoonfuls of it taken three or four times a-day, more or leſs, according to the age and conſtitution of the patient. Squills may be given various ways; Two ounces of the vinegar, the oxymel, or the ſyrup, may be mixed with the ſame quantity of ſimple cinnamon water, to which may be added an ounce of common water and an ounce of balſamic ſyrup. Two table-ſpoonfuls of this mixture may be taken three or four times a-day.

A SYRUP made of equal parts of lemon-juice, honey and ſugar-candy, is likewiſe very proper in

this kind of cough. A table-ſpoonful of it may be taken at pleaſure.

But when the defluxion is ſharp and thin, theſe medicines rather do hurt. In this caſe gentle opiates, oils, and mucilages are more proper. A cup of an infuſion of wild poppy leaves and marſh mallow roots, or the flowers of colts-foot, may be taken frequently; or a tea-ſpoonful of the paregoric elixir may be put into the patient's drink twice a-day. Fuller's Spaniſh infuſion is alſo a very proper medicine in this caſe, and may be taken in the quantity of a tea-cupful three or four times a-day *.

When a cough is occaſioned by acrid humours tickling the throat and *fauces*, the patient ſhould keep ſome ſoft pectoral lozenges almoſt conſtantly in his mouth; as the Pontefract liquorice cakes, barley-ſugar, the common balſamic lozenges, Spaniſh juice, *&c.* Theſe blunt the acrimony of the humours, and by taking off their ſtimulating quality, help to appeaſe the cough.

In obſtinate coughs, proceeding from a flux of humours upon the lungs, it will often be neceſſary, beſides expectorating medicines, to have recourſe to iſſues, ſetons, or ſome other drain. In this caſe I have often obſerved the moſt happy effects from

* The *Spaniſh infuſion* is made by infuſing in an Engliſh quart of boiling water, two drams of the ſalt of tartar, half a dram of ſaffron cut into ſmall pieces, and an ounce of Spaniſh juice likewiſe cut ſmall. Theſe muſt ſtand in a cloſe veſſel for twenty-four hours in a gentle heat; afterwards let the infuſion be ſtrained.

a Burgundy-

a Burgundy-pitch plaſter applied between the ſhoulders. I have ordered this ſimple remedy in the moſt obſtinate coughs, in a great number of caſes, and in many different conſtitutions, without ever knowing it fail to give relief, unleſs where there were evident ſigns of an ulcer in the lungs. About the bulk of a nutmeg of Burgundy-pitch may be ſpread thin upon a piece of ſoft leather, about the ſize of the hand, and laid between the ſhoulder-blades. It may be taken off and wiped every three or four days, and ought to be renewed once a fortnight or three weeks. This is indeed a cheap and ſimple medicine, and conſequently apt to be deſpiſed; but we will venture to affirm, that the whole *materia medica* does not afford an application more efficacious in almoſt every kind of cough. It has not indeed always an immediate effect; but, if kept on for ſome time, it will ſucceed where moſt other medicines fail.

The only inconveniency attending this plaſter is the itching, which it occaſions in the part to which it is applied; but ſurely this may be diſpenſed with, conſidering the advantage which the patient may expect to reap from the application; beſides, when the itching becomes very uneaſy, the plaſter may be taken off, and the part rubbed with a dry cloth, or waſhed with a little warm milk and water. Some caution indeed is neceſſary in diſcontinuing the uſe of ſuch a plaſter; this however may be ſafely done by making it ſmaller by de-

grees, and at length quitting it altogether in a warm ſeaſon *.

But coughs proceed from many other cauſes beſides defluxions upon the lungs. In theſe caſes the cure is not to be attempted by pectoral medicines. Thus, in a cough proceeding from a foulneſs and debility of the ſtomach, ſyrups, oils, mucilages, and all kind of balſamic medicines do hurt. The *ſtomach cough* may be known from one that is owing to a fault in the lungs by this, that in the latter the patient coughs whenever he inſpires, or draws in his breath fully; but in the former that does not happen.

The cure of this cough depends chiefly upon cleanſing and ſtrengthening the ſtomach; for which purpoſe gentle vomits and bitter purgatives are moſt proper. Thus, after a vomit or two, the ſacred tincture, as it is called, may be taken for a conſiderable time in the doſe of one or two tableſpoonfuls twice a-day, or as often as it is found neceſſary to keep the body gently open. People may make this tincture themſelves, by infuſing an ounce of *hiera picra* † in an Engliſh pint of white

* Some complain that the pitch plaſter adheres too faſt, ſo that they find it difficult to remove it, while others find difficulty in keeping it on. This proceeds from the different kinds of pitch made uſe of, and likewiſe from the manner of ſpreading it. I generally find it anſwer beſt when mixed with a little bees wax, and ſpread as cool as poſſible. The clear, hard, tranſparent pitch anſwers the purpoſe beſt.

† The powder called *hiera picra* is made by pounding together, of Socotrine aloes four ounces, Virginian ſnake-root and ginger, each half an ounce.

wine.

wine, letting it ſtand a few days, and then ſtraining it off for uſe.

In coughs which proceed from a debility of the ſtomach, the Peruvian bark is likewiſe of conſiderable ſervice. It may either be chewed, taken in powder, or made into a tincture along with other ſtomachic bitters.

A *nervous cough* can only be removed by change of air, and proper exerciſe; to which may be added the uſe of gentle opiates. Inſtead of the ſaponacious pill, the paregoric elixir, *&c.* which are only opium diſguiſed, ten, fifteen, twenty, or twenty-five drops of liquid laudanum, more or leſs, as circumſtances require, may be taken at bed-time, or when the cough is moſt troubleſome. Immerſing the feet and hands in warm water will often appeaſe the violence of a nervous cough.

When a cough is only the ſymptom of ſome other malady, it is in vain to attempt to remove it without firſt curing the diſeaſe from which it proceeds. Thus, when a cough is occaſioned by *teething*, keeping the belly open, ſcarifying the gums, or whatever facilitates the cutting of the teeth, likewiſe appeaſes the cough. In like manner, when *worms* occaſion a cough, ſuch medicines as remove theſe will generally cure the cough; as bitter purgatives, oily clyſters, and ſuch like.

Women, during the laſt months of pregnancy, are often greatly afflicted with a cough, which is generally relieved by bleeding, and keeping the belly

belly open. They ought to avoid all flatulent food, and to wear a looſe eaſy dreſs.

A COUGH is not only a ſymptom, but is often likewiſe the forerunner of diſeaſes. Thus, the gout is frequently uſhered in by a very troubleſome cough, which affects the patient for ſome days before the coming on of the fit. This cough is generally removed by a paroxyſm of the gout, which ſhould therefore be promoted, by keeping the extremities warm, drinking warm liquors, and bathing the feet and legs frequently in lukewarm water.

OF THE HOOPING-COUGH, OR CHIN-COUGH.

THIS cough ſeldom affects adults, but proves often fatal to children. Such children as live upon thin watery diet, who breathe unwholeſome air, and have too little exerciſe, are moſt liable to this diſeaſe, and generally ſuffer moſt from it.

THE chin-cough is ſo well known, even to nurſes, that a deſcription of it is unneceſſary. Whatever hurts the digeſtion, obſtructs the perſpiration, or relaxes the ſolids, diſpoſes to this diſeaſe: Conſequently its cure muſt depend upon cleanſing and ſtrengthening the ſtomach, bracing the ſolids, and, at the ſame time, promoting perſpiration, and the different ſecretions.

THE

THE diet muſt be light, and of eaſy digeſtion; for children, good bread made into pap or pudding, chicken-broth, with other light ſpoon-meats, are proper; but thoſe who are farther advanced may be allowed ſago-gruel, and if the fever be not high, a little boiled chicken, or other white meats. The drink may be penny-royal tea, ſweetened with honey or ſugar-candy, ſmall wine-whey; or, if the patient be weak, he may ſometimes be allowed a little negas.

ONE of the moſt effectual remedies in the chin-cough is change of air. This often removes the malady even when the change ſeems to be from a purer to a leſs wholeſome air. This may in ſome meaſure depend on the patient's being removed from the place where the infection prevails. Moſt of the diſeaſes of children are infectious; nor is it at all uncommon to find the chin-cough prevailing in one town or village, when another, at a very ſmall diſtance, is quite free from it. But, whatever be the cauſe, we are ſure of the fact. No time ought therefore to be loſt in removing the patient at ſome diſtance from the place where he caught the diſeaſe, and, if poſſible, into a more pure and warm air *.

* Some think the air ought not to be changed till the diſeaſe be on the decline; but there ſeems to be no ſufficient reaſon for this opinion, as patients have been known to reap benefit from a change of air at all periods of the diſeaſe. It is not ſufficient to carry the patient out daily in a machine. This ſeldom anſwers any good purpoſe; but often hurts the patient by giving him cold. If he goes out at all it ought to be on foot or horſeback.

WHEN

When the diſeaſe proves violent, and the patient is in danger of being ſuffocated by the cough, he ought to be bled, eſpecially if there be a fever with a hard full pulſe. But as the chief intention of bleeding is to prevent a rupture of the blood-veſſels of the lungs, and to render it more ſafe to give vomits, it will ſeldom be neceſſary to repeat the operation; yet if there be ſymptoms of an inflammation of the lungs, a ſecond, or even a third bleeding may be requiſite.

It is generally reckoned a favourable ſymptom when a fit of coughing makes the patient vomit. This cleanſes the ſtomach, and greatly relieves the cough. It will therefore be proper to promote this diſcharge, either by camomile tea or luke-warm water; and when theſe are not ſufficient, ſmall doſes of ipecacuanha may be given. A child of three or four years of age may take five or ſix grains; and to others, leſs or more muſt be given according to their age and ſtrength.

It is very difficult to make children drink after a vomit. I have often ſeen them happily deceived, by infuſing a ſcruple or half a dram of the powder of ipecacuanha in a tea-pot, with half an Engliſh pint of boiling water. If this be diſguiſed with a few drops of milk and a little ſugar, they will imagine it tea, and drink it very greedily. A ſmall tea-cupful of this may be given every quarter of an hour, or rather every ten minutes, till it operates. When they begin to puke, there will be no occaſion for drinking any

any more, as the water already on their ſtomach will be ſufficient.

Vomits not only cleanſe the ſtomach, which in this diſeaſe is generally loaded with viſcid phlegm, but they likewiſe promote the perſpiration and other ſecretions; and ought therefore to be repeated according to the obſtinacy of the diſeaſe. They ſhould not however be too ſtrong; gentle vomits frequently repeated are both leſs dangerous, and more beneficial than ſtrong ones.

As the patient is generally coſtive, it will be proper to keep his belly gently open. The beſt medicines for this purpoſe are rhubarb and its preparations, as the ſyrup, tincture, &c. Of theſe a tea-ſpoonful or two may be given to an infant twice or thrice a-day, as there is occaſion. To ſuch as are farther advanced, the doſe muſt be proportionally increaſed, and repeated till it has the deſired effect. Thoſe who cannot be brought to take the bitter tincture, may have an infuſion of ſenna and prunes, ſweetened with manna, coarſe ſugar, or honey; or a few grains of rhubarb mixed with a tea-ſpoonful or two of ſyrup, or currant jelly, ſo as to diſguiſe the taſte. Moſt children are fond of ſyrups and jellies, and ſeldom refuſe even a diſagreeable medicine when mixed with them.

Many people believe that oily, pectoral, and balſamic medicines poſſeſs wonderful virtues for the cure of the chin-cough, and accordingly exhibit them plentifully to patients of every age

and

and conſtitution, without conſidering that every thing of this nature muſt load the ſtomach, hurt the digeſtion, and of courſe aggravate the diſorder.

THE *millepedes*, or woodlice, are greatly recommended for the cure of a chin-cough. Thoſe who chuſe to make uſe of theſe inſects, may infuſe two ounces of them bruiſed in an Engliſh pint of ſmall white-wine for one night. Afterwards the liquor may be ſtrained through a cloth, and a table-ſpoonful of it given to the patient three or four times a-day.

OPIATES are ſometimes neceſſary to allay the violence of the cough. For this purpoſe a little of the ſyrup of poppies, or five, ſix or ſeven drops of laudanum, according to the age and conſtitution of the patient, may be taken in a cup of hyſop or penny-royal tea, and repeated occaſionally.

THE garlic ointment is a well known remedy in North-Britain for the chin-cough. It is made by beating in a mortar garlic with an equal quantity of hogs lard. With this the ſoles of the feet may be rubbed twice or thrice a-day; but the beſt method is to ſpread it upon a rag and apply it in the form of plaſter. It ſhould be renewed every night and morning at leaſt, as the garlic ſoon loſes its virtue. This is an exceeding good medicine both in the chin-cough, and in moſt other coughs of an obſtinate nature. It ought not however to be uſed when the patient is very hot or feveriſh, leſt it increaſe theſe ſymptoms.

THE

THE feet ſhould be bathed once every two or three days in lukewarm water; and a Burgundy-pitch plaſter kept conſtantly betwixt the ſhoulders. But when the diſeaſe proves very violent, it will be neceſſary, inſtead of it, to apply a bliſtering plaſter, and to keep the part open for ſome time with iſſue-ointment.

WHEN the diſeaſe is prolonged, and the patient is free from a fever, the Peruvian bark, and other bitters, are the moſt proper medicines. The bark may either be taken in ſubſtance, or in a decoction or infuſion, as is moſt agreeable to the patient. For a child, ten, fifteen, or twenty grains, according to the age of the patient, may be given three or four times a-day. For an adult, half a dram or two ſcruples will be proper. Some give the extract of the bark with cantharides; but to manage this requires ſome ſkill and attention. It is more ſafe to give a few grains of caſtor along with the bark. A child of ſix or ſeven years of age may take ſeven or eight grains of caſtor, with fifteen grains of powdered bark, for a doſe. This may be made into a mixture with two or three ounces of any ſimple diſtilled water, and a little ſyrup, and taken three or four times a-day.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXX.

INFLAMMATION OF THE STOMACH AND OTHER VISCERA.

ALL inflammations of the bowels are dangerous, and require the moſt ſpeedy aſſiſtance; as they frequently end in a ſuppuration, and ſometimes in a mortification, which is certain death.

CAUSES.—An inflammation of the ſtomach may proceed from any of the cauſes which produce an inflammatory fever; as cold liquor drank while the body is warm, obſtructed perſpiration, the ſudden ſtriking in of any eruption, *&c.* It may likewiſe proceed from the acrimony of the bile, or from acrid and ſtimulating ſubſtances taken into the ſtomach; as ſtrong vomits or purges, corroſive poiſons, and ſuch like. When the gout has been repelled from the extremities, either by cold or improper applications, it often occaſions an inflammation of the ſtomach. Hard or indigeſtable ſubſtances taken into the ſtomach, as bones, the ſhells of nuts, *&c.* may likewiſe have that effect.

SYMPTOMS.——It is attended with a fixed pain and burning heat in the ſtomach; great reſtleſſneſs and anxiety; a ſmall, quick, and hard pulſe;

pulſe; vomiting, or, at leaſt, a nauſea and ſickneſs; exceſſive thirſt; coldneſs of the extremities; difficulty of breathing; cold clammy ſweats; and ſometimes convulſions and fainting fits. The ſtomach is ſwelled, and often feels hard to the touch. One of the moſt certain ſigns of this diſeaſe is the ſenſe of pain, which the patient feels upon taking any kind of food or drink, eſpecially if it be either too hot or cold.

When the patient vomits every thing he eats or drinks, is extremely reſtleſs, has a hiccup, with an intermitting pulſe, and frequent fainting fits, the danger is very great.

REGIMEN.——All acrimonious, heating, and irritating food and drink are carefully to be avoided. The weakneſs of the patient may deceive the by-ſtanders, and induce them to give him wines, ſpirits, or other cordials; but theſe never fail to increaſe the diſeaſe, and often occaſion ſudden death. The inclination to vomit may likewiſe impoſe on the attendants, and make them think a vomit neceſſary; but that too is almoſt certain death.

The food muſt be light, thin, cool, and eaſy of digeſtion. It muſt be given in ſmall quantities, and ſhould neither be quite cold nor too hot. Thin gruel made of barley or oatmeal, light toaſted bread diſſolved in boiling water, or very weak chicken broth, are the moſt proper. The drink ſhould be clear whey, barley-water, water in which toaſted bread has been boiled, or decoctions

of emollient vegetables; as liquorice and marſh-mallow roots, ſarſaparilla, &c.

MEDICINE.——Bleeding in this diſeaſe is abſolutely neceſſary, and is almoſt the only thing that can be depended on. When the diſeaſe proves obſtinate, it will often be proper to repeat this operation ſeveral times, nor muſt the low ſtate of the pulſe deter us from doing ſo. The pulſe indeed generally riſes upon bleeding, and ſo long as that is the caſe the operation is ſafe.

FREQUENT fomentations with lukewarm water, or a decoction of emollient vegetables, are likewiſe beneficial. Flannel cloths dipped in theſe muſt be applied to the region of the ſtomach, and removed as they grow cool. They muſt neither be applied too warm, nor ſuffered to continue till they become quite cold, as either of theſe extremes would aggravate the diſeaſe.

THE feet and legs ought likewiſe to be frequently bathed in lukewarm water, and warm bricks or poultices may be applied to the ſoles of the feet.

IN this, and all other inflammations of the bowels, an epiſpaſtic, or bliſtering plaſter, applied over the part affected is one of the beſt remedies I know. I have often uſed it, and do not recollect one inſtance wherein it did not give relief to the patient.

THE only internal medicines which we ſhall venture to recommend in this diſeaſe, are mild clyſters. Theſe may be made of warm water, or thin

thin water-gruel, and if the patient be coſtive, a little ſweat oil, honey or manna, may be added. Clyſters anſwer the purpoſe of an internal fomentation, while they keep the belly open, and at the ſame time nouriſh the patient, who is often, in this diſeaſe, unable to retain any food upon his ſtomach. For theſe reaſons they muſt not be neglected, as the patient's life may depend on them.

INFLAMMATION OF THE INTESTINES.

This is one of the moſt painful and dangerous diſeaſes that mankind is liable to. It generally proceeds from the ſame *cauſes* as the inflammation of the ſtomach; to which may be added coſtiveneſs, worms, eating unripe fruits, or great quantities of nuts, drinking hard windy malt liquors, as ſtale bottled beer or ale, ſour wine, cyder, *&c.* It may likewiſe be occaſioned by a rupture, by ſcirrhous tumours of the inteſtines, or by their oppoſite ſides growing together.

The inflammation of the inteſtines is generally divided into the *Iliac paſſion*, the *Enteritis*, *&c.* according to the name of the parts affected. The treatment however is nearly the ſame whatever part of the inteſtinal canal be the ſeat of the diſeaſe; we ſhall therefore omit theſe diſtinctions, leſt they ſhould perplex the reader.

THE *ſymptoms* here are nearly the ſame as in the foregoing diſeaſe; only the pain, if poſſible, is more acute, and is ſituated lower. The vomiting is likewiſe more violent, and ſometimes even the excrements, together with the clyſters and ſuppoſitories, are diſcharged by the mouth. The patient is continually belching up wind, and has often an obſtruction of his urine.

WHILE the pain ſhifts, and the vomiting only returns at certain intervals, and while the clyſters paſs downwards, there is ground to hope; but when the clyſters and *fæces* are vomited, and the patient is exceeding weak, with a low fluttering pulſe, a pale countenance, and a diſagreeable or ſtinking breath, there is great reaſon to fear, that the conſequences will prove fatal. Clammy ſweats, black fœtid ſtools, with a ſmall intermitting pulſe, and a total ceſſation of pain, are ſigns of a mortification, already begun, and of approaching death.

REGIMEN.——The regimen in this diſeaſe is in general the ſame as in an inflammation of the ſtomach. The patient muſt be kept quiet, avoiding cold, and all violent paſſions of the mind. His food ought to be very light, and given in ſmall quantities: his drink weak and diluting; as clear whey, barley-water, and ſuch like.

MEDICINE.——Bleeding in this, as well as in the inflammation of the ſtomach, is of the greateſt importance. It ſhould be performed as ſoon

ſoon as the ſymptoms appear, and muſt be repeated according to the ſtrength of the patient, and the violence of the ſymptoms.

A BLISTERING plaſter is here likewiſe to be applied immediately over the part where the moſt violent pain is. This not only relieves the pain of the bowels, but even clyſters and purgative medicines, which before had no effect, will operate when the bliſter begins to riſe.

FOMENTATIONS and laxative clyſters are by no means to be omitted. The patient's feet and legs ſhould frequently be bathed in warm water; and cloths dipped in it applied to his belly. Bladders filled with warm water may likewiſe be applied to the region of the navel, and warm bricks, or bottles filled with warm water, to the ſoles of the feet. The clyſters may be made of barley-water or thin gruel with ſalt, and ſoftened with ſweet oil or freſh butter. Theſe may be adminiſtered every two or three hours, or oftener, if the patient continues coſtive.

IF common clyſters have not the deſired effect, we would recommend the ſmoke of tobacco. It may be blown into the bowels through an inverted pipe. This may be repeated in a ſhort time, unleſs the effect of the firſt renders it unneceſſary.

IF the diſeaſe does not yield to clyſters and fomentations, recourſe muſt be had to pretty ſtrong purgatives; but as theſe by irritating the bowels often increaſe their contraction, and by that means

fruſtrate their own intention, it will be neceſſary to join them with opiates, which, by allaying the pain, and relaxing the ſpaſmodic contractions of the guts, greatly aſſiſt the operation of purgatives in this caſe.

What anſwers the purpoſe of opening the belly very well, is a ſolution of the bitter purging ſalts. Two ounces of theſe may be diſſolved in an Engliſh pint of warm water, or thin gruel, and two or three table-ſpoonfuls given every half hour till it operates. At the ſame time fifteen, twenty, or twenty-five drops of laudanum may be given in a glaſs of pepper-mint or ſimple cinnamon water, to appeaſe the irritation and prevent the vomiting, &c.

Acids have often a very happy effect in ſtaying the vomiting, and appeaſing the other violent ſymptoms of this diſeaſe. It will therefore be of uſe to ſharpen the patient's drink with cream of tartar, juice of lemon; or, when theſe cannot be obtained, with vinegar.

But it often happens that no liquid whatever will ſtay on the ſtomach. In this caſe the patient muſt take purging pills. I have generally found the following anſwer very well. Take jalap in powder, and vitriolated tartar, of each half a dram, opium one grain, Caſtile ſoap as much as will make the maſs fit for pills. Theſe muſt be taken at one doſe, and if they do not operate in a few hours, the doſe may be repeated.

If

If a ſtool cannot be procured by any of the above means, it will be neceſſary to immerſe the patient in warm water up to the breaſt. I have often ſeen this ſucceed when other means had been tried in vain. The patient muſt continue in the water as long as he can eaſily bear it without fainting, and if one immerſion has not the deſired effect, it may be repeated as ſoon as the patient's ſtrength and ſpirits are recruited. It is more ſafe for him to go frequently into the bath than to continue too long at a time; and it is often neceſſary to repeat it ſeveral times before it has the deſired effect. Great care muſt be taken that the water be not too warm.

It has ſometimes happened, after all other means of procuring a ſtool had been tried to no purpoſe, that this was brought about by immerſing the patient's lower extremities in cold water, or making him walk upon a wet pavement, and daſhing his legs and thighs with the cold water. This method, when others fail, at leaſt merits a trial. It is indeed attended with ſome danger; but a doubtful remedy is better than none.

In deſperate caſes it is common to give quickſilver. This may be given to the quantity of ſeveral ounces, or even a pound, but ſhould not exceed that*. When there is reaſon to ſuſpect a mortification

* When quickſilver is given in too large quantities it defeats its own intention, as it pulls down the bottom of the ſtomach by its great weight, which prevents its getting over

mortification of the guts, this medicine ought not to be tried. In that caſe it cannot cure the patient, and will only haſten his death. But when the obſtruction is occaſioned by any cauſe that can be removed by force, quickſilver is not only a proper medicine, but the beſt that can be adminiſtered, as it is the fitteſt body we know for making its way through the inteſtinal canal.

If the diſeaſe proceeds from a rupture, the patient muſt be laid with his head very low, and the inteſtines returned by gentle preſſure with the hand. If this, with fomentations and clyſters, ſhould not ſucceed, recourſe muſt be had to a ſurgical operation, which may give the patient relief.

Such as would avoid this excruciating and dangerous diſeaſe, muſt take care never to be too long without a ſtool. Some who have died of it have had ſeveral pounds of hard, dry *fæces* taken out of their guts. They ſhould likewiſe beware of eating too freely of ſour or unripe fruits, or drinking ſtale windy liquors, *&c.* I have known it brought on by living too much on baked fruits, which are ſeldom good. It likewiſe proceeds frequently from cold caught by wet clothes, *&c.* but eſpecially from wet feet.

the Pylorus. In this caſe I have ſometimes been obliged to hang up the patient by the heels in order that it might be diſcharged by his mouth.

OF

OF THE COLIC.

THE colic has great affinity, both in its ſymptoms and method of cure, with the two preceding diſeaſes. It is generally attended with coſtiveneſs and acute pain of the bowels; and requires diluting diet, evacuations, fomentations, *&c.*

COLICS are variouſly denominated according to their cauſes, as the *flatulent*, the *bilious*, the *hyſteric*, the *nervous*, *&c.* As each of theſe requires a particular method of treatment, we ſhall point out their moſt general ſymptoms, and the means to be uſed for their relief.

THE *flatulent*, or wind-colic, is generally occaſioned by an indiſcreet uſe of unripe fruits, meats of hard digeſtion, windy vegetables, fermenting liquors, and ſuch like. It may likewiſe proceed from an obſtructed perſpiration, or catching cold. Delicate people, whoſe digeſtive powers are weak, are moſt liable to this kind of colic.

THE flatulent colic may either affect the ſtomach or inteſtines. It is attended with a painful ſtretching of the affected part. The patient feels a rumbling in his guts, and is generally relieved by a diſcharge of wind either upwards or downwards. The pain is ſeldom confined to any particular part, as the vapour wanders from one diviſion of the bowels to another, till it finds a vent.

WHEN the diſeaſe proceeds from windy liquor, green fruit, ſour herbs, or the like, the beſt medi-

cine

cine on the firſt appearance of the ſymptoms is a dram of brandy, gin, or any good ſpirits. The patient ſhould likewiſe ſit with his feet upon a warm hearth-ſtone, or apply warm bricks to them; and warm cloths may be applied to his ſtomach and bowels.

This is the only colic wherein ardent ſpirits, ſpiceries, or any thing of a hot nature, may be ventured upon. Nor indeed are they to be uſed here unleſs at the very beginning, before there be any ſymptoms of inflammation. We have reaſon to believe, that a colic occaſioned by wind or flatulent food might always be cured by ſpirits and warm liquors, if they were taken immediately upon perceiving the firſt uneaſineſs; but when the pain has continued for a conſiderable time, and there is reaſon to fear an inflammation of the bowels is already begun, all hot things are to be avoided as poiſon, and the patient is to be treated in the ſame manner as for the inflammation of the inteſtines.

Several kinds of food, as honey, eggs, *&c.* occaſion colics in ſome particular conſtitutions. I have generally found, the beſt method of cure for theſe was to drink plentifully of ſmall diluting liquors, as water-gruel, ſmall poſſet, water with toaſted bread ſoaked in it, *&c.*

Colics which proceed from exceſs and indigeſtion generally cure themſelves, by occaſioning vomiting or purging. Theſe diſcharges are by no means to be ſtopped, but promoted by drinking

ing plentifully of warm water, or weak poſſet. When their violence is over, the patient may take a doſe of rhubarb, or any other gentle purge, to carry off the dregs of his debauch.

Colics which are occaſioned by wet feet, or catching cold, may generally be removed at the beginning, by bathing the feet and legs in warm water, and drinking ſuch warm diluting liquors as will promote the perſpiration, as weak wine-whey, or water-gruel with a ſmall quantity of ſpirits in it.

These flatulent colics, which prevail ſo much among country people, might generally be prevented were they careful to change their clothes when they get wet. They ought likewiſe to take a dram, or to drink ſome warm liquor after eating any kind of green traſh. We do not mean to recommend the practice of dram-drinking, but in this caſe ardent ſpirits prove a real medicine, and indeed the beſt that can be adminiſtered. A glaſs of good pepper-mint water will have nearly the ſame effect as a glaſs of brandy, and, in ſome caſes, is rather to be preferred.

The *bilious* colic is attended with very acute pains about the region of the navel. The patient complains of great thirſt, and is generally coſtive. He vomits a hot, bitter, yellow-coloured bile, which being diſcharged, ſeems to afford ſome relief, but is quickly followed by the ſame violent pain as before. As the diſtemper advances, the propenſity

propenſity to vomit ſometimes increaſes ſo as to become almoſt continual, and the proper motion of the inteſtines is ſo far perverted, that there are all the ſymptoms of an impending iliac paſſion.

If the patient be young and ſtrong, and the pulſe full and frequent, it will be proper to bleed, after which clyſters may be adminiſtered. Clear whey or gruel, ſharpened with the juice of lemon, or cream of tartar, muſt be drank freely. Small chicken broth, with a little manna diſſolved in it, or a ſlight decoction of tamarinds, are likewiſe very proper, or any other thin, acid, opening liquor.

Besides bleeding and plentiful dilution, it will be neceſſary to foment the belly with cloths dipped in warm water, and if this ſhould not ſucceed, the patient muſt be immerſed up to the breaſt in warm water.

Mild purgatives are here likewiſe neceſſary, as the lenitive electuary, manna, cream of tartar, or the bitter purging ſalts, which will anſwer very well. Theſe may be diſſolved in water, and given in the ſame manner as directed in the inflammation of the inteſtines. If theſe medicines will not ſtay on the ſtomach, it will be neceſſary to join an opiate with them.

Such as are liable to frequent returns of the bilious colic ſhould uſe fleſh ſparingly, and live chiefly upon a light vegetable diet. They ſhould likewiſe

likewiſe take frequently a doſe of cream of tartar with tamarinds, or any other cool acid purge.

The *hyſteric* colic bears a great reſemblance to the bilious. It is attended with acute pains about the region of the ſtomach, vomiting, *&c.* But what the patient vomits in this caſe is commonly of a greeniſh colour. There is a great ſinking of the ſpirits, with dejection of mind and difficulty of breathing, which are the characteriſtic ſymptoms of this diſorder. Sometimes it is accompanied with the jaundice, but this generally goes off of its own accord in a few days.

In this colic all evacuations, as bleeding, purging, vomiting, *&c.* do hurt. Every thing that weakens the patient, or ſinks the ſpirits, is to be avoided. If however the vomiting ſhould prove violent, lukewarm water, or ſmall poſſet, may be drank to cleanſe the ſtomach. Afterwards the patient may take fifteen, twenty, or twenty-five drops of liquid laudanum in a glaſs of cinnamon-water. This may be repeated every ten or twelve hours till the ſymptoms abate.

The patient may likewiſe take four or five of the fœtid pills every ſix hours, and drink a cup of penny royal-tea after them. If aſafœtida ſhould diſagree with the patient, which is ſometimes the caſe, a tea-ſpoonful of the tincture of caſtor in a cup of penny-royal-tea, or thirty or forty drops of the balſam of Peru dropped upon a bit of loaf-ſugar, may be taken in its ſtead. The anti-hyſteric

plaſter may alſo be uſed, which has often a good effect *.

The *nervous* colic prevails chiefly among miners, ſmelters of lead, plumbers, the manufacturers of white lead, *&c.* It is very common in the cyder counties of England, and is ſuppoſed to be occaſioned by the leaden veſſels uſed in preparing that liquor.

No diſeaſe of the bowels is attended with more excruciating pain than this. Nor is it ſoon at an end. I have known it continue eight or ten days with very little intermiſſion, the belly all the while continuing bound in ſpite of medicine, yet at length yield, and the patient recover. It generally however leaves the patient weak, and often ends in a palſy.

The general treatment of this diſeaſe is ſo nearly the ſame with that of the iliac paſſion, or inflammation of the guts, that we ſhall not inſiſt upon it. The belly is to be opened by mild purgatives given in ſmall doſes, and frequently re-

* The anti-hyſteric plaſter is made by melting together, of galbanum three ounces, tacamahaca in powder, and yellow wax, each an ounce and an half; venice turpentine, cummin ſeeds in powder, and aſafœtida, each one ounce. A ſufficient quantity of this may be ſpread upon a piece of ſoft leather and applied to the region of the ſtomach. I have generally found it have the beſt effect when thirty or forty drops of laudanum were rubbed upon the ſurface of the plaſter,

peated,

peated, and their operation muſt be aſſiſted by ſoft oily clyſters, fomentations, &c.

The Barbadoes tar is ſaid to be an efficacious medicine in this diſeaſe. It may be taken to the quantity of two drams three times a-day, or oftener if the ſtomach will bear it. This tar, mixed with an equal quantity of ſtrong rum, is likewiſe proper for rubbing the ſpine, in caſe any tingling, or other ſymptoms of a palſy are felt. When the tar cannot be obtained, the back may be rubbed with ſtrong ſpirits, or a little oil of nutmegs or of roſemary.

If the patient remains weak and languid after this diſeaſe, he muſt take exerciſe on horſeback, and uſe an infuſion of the Peruvian bark in wine. When the diſeaſe ends in a palſy, the bath-waters are found to be extremely proper.

To avoid this kind of colic, people muſt ſhun all four fruits, acid and auſtere liquors, &c. Thoſe who work in lead ought never to go to their buſineſs faſting, and their food ſhould be oily or fat. They may take a glaſs of ſalad oil, with a little brandy or rum every morning, but ſhould never take ſpirits alone. Liquid aliment is beſt for them; as fat broths, &c.; but low living is bad. They ſhould frequently go a little out of the tainted air; and ſhould never ſuffer themſelves to be coſtive.

Sundry other kinds of this diſeaſe might be mentioned, but too many diſtinctions would tend only

only to perplex the reader. Theſe already mentioned are the moſt material, and ſhould indeed be attended to, as their treatment is very different. But even perſons who are not in a condition to diſtinguiſh very accurately in theſe matters, may nevertheleſs be of great ſervice to patients in colics of every kind, by only obſerving the following general rules; *viz.* To bathe the feet and legs in warm water; to apply bladders filled with warm water, or cloths dipped in it, to the ſtomach and bowels; to make the patient drink freely of diluting mucilaginous liquors; and, laſtly, to give him an emollient clyſter every two or three hours.

INFLAMMATION OF THE KIDNEYS.

CAUSES.——This diſeaſe may proceed from any of thoſe cauſes which produce an inflammatory fever. It may likewiſe be occaſioned by wounds, or bruiſes of the kidneys; ſmall ſtones or gravel lodging within them; by ſtrong diuretic medicines; as ſpirits of turpentine, tincture of cantharides, *&c.* Violent motion; as hard riding or walking, eſpecially in hot weather, or whatever drives the blood too forcibly into the kidneys, may occaſion this malady. It may likewiſe proceed from lying too ſoft, too much on the back, involuntary contractions, or ſpaſms, in the urinary veſſels, *&c.*

SYMPTOMS.

SYMPTOMS.——There is a ſharp pain about the region of the kidneys, with ſome degree of fever, and a ſtupor, or dull pain in the thigh of the affected ſide. The urine is at firſt clear, and afterwards of a reddiſh colour; but in the worſt kind of the diſeaſe it generally continues pale, is paſſed with difficulty, and commonly in ſmall quantities at a time. The patient feels great uneaſineſs when he endeavours to walk or ſit upright. He lies with more eaſe on the affected ſide than on the ſound; and has generally a nauſea or vomiting, reſembling that which happens in the colic.

THIS diſeaſe however may be diſtinguiſhed from the colic by the pain being ſeated farther back, and by the difficulty of paſſing urine, which is a conſtant ſymptom of the former, but does not always happen in the latter.

REGIMEN.——Every thing of a heating or ſtimulating nature is to be avoided. The food muſt be thin and light; as panado, ſmall broths, with mild vegetables, and the like. Emollient and thin liquors muſt be plentifully drank; as clear whey, or balm-tea ſweetened with honey, decoctions of marſh mallow roots, with barley and liquorice, *&c.* The patient, notwithſtanding the vomiting, muſt conſtantly keep ſipping ſmall quantities of theſe or other diluting liquors. Nothing ſo ſafely and certainly abates the inflammation, and expels the obſtructing cauſe, as copious

dilution. The patient muſt be kept eaſy, quiet, and free from cold, ſo long as any ſymptoms of inflammation appear.

MEDICINE.——Bleeding is generally neceſſary, eſpecially at the beginning. Ten or twelve ounces may be let from the arm or foot with a lancet, and if the pain and inflammation continue, the operation may be repeated in twenty-four hours, eſpecially if the patient be of a full habit. Leeches may likewiſe be applied to the hæmorrhoidal veins, as a diſcharge from theſe will greatly relieve the patient.

CLOTHS dipped in warm water, or bladders filled with it, muſt be applied to the part affected, and renewed as they grow cool. If the bladders be filled with a decoction of mallows and camomile flowers, to which a little ſaffron is added, and mixed with about a third part of new milk, it will be ſtill more beneficial.

EMOLLIENT clyſters ought frequently to be adminiſtered; and if theſe do not open the belly, a little ſalt and honey or manna may be added to them.

THE ſame courſe is to be followed where gravel or a ſtone is lodged in the kidney; but when the gravel or ſtone is ſeparated from the kidney, and lodges in the Ureter*, it will be proper, beſides

* The Ureters are two long and ſmall canals, one on each ſide, which carry the urine from the baſon of the kidneys to the bladder. They are ſometimes obſtructed by ſmall ſtones or gravel falling down from the kidneys and lodging in them.

the

the fomentations, to rub the part with a little ſweet oil, and to give gentle diuretics; as juniper-water ſweetened with the ſyrup of marſh-mallows, or a tea-ſpoonful of the ſweet ſpirits of nitre, now and then in a cup of the patient's drink. He ought likewiſe to take exerciſe on horſeback, or in a coach, if he be able to bear it.

When the diſeaſe is protracted beyond the ſeventh or eighth day, and the patient complains of a ſtupor, and heavineſs of the part, has frequent returns of chillneſs, ſhivering, &c. there is reaſon to ſuſpect, that matter is forming in the kidney, and that an abſceſs will enſue.

When matter in the urine ſhews, that an ulcer is already formed in the kidney, the patient muſt be careful to abſtain from all acrid, ſour, and ſalted proviſions; and to live chiefly upon mild mucilaginous herbs and fruits, together with the broth of young animals, made with barley and common pot-herbs, &c. His drink may be whey, and butter-milk that is not ſour. The latter is by ſome reckoned a ſpecific remedy in ulcers of the kidneys. To anſwer this character however it muſt be drank for a conſiderable time. Chalybeat waters have likewiſe been found beneficial in this diſeaſe. This medicine is eaſily obtained, as it is found in every part of Great Britain. It muſt likewiſe be uſed for a conſiderable time, in order to produce any ſalutary effects.

Those who are liable to frequent returns of inflammation, or obſtruction of the kidneys, muſt abſtain from wines, eſpecially ſuch as abound with tartar; and their food ought to be light, and of eaſy digeſtion. They ſhould uſe moderate exerciſe, and ſhould not lie too hot, nor too much on their back.

INFLAMMATION OF THE BLADDER.

The inflammation of the bladder proceeds, in a great meaſure, from the ſame cauſes as that of the kidneys. It is known by an acute pain towards the bottom of the belly, and difficulty of paſſing urine, with ſome degree of fever, a conſtant inclination to go to ſtool, and a perpetual deſire to make water.

This diſeaſe muſt be treated on the ſame principles as the one immediately preceding. The diet muſt be light and thin, and the drink cooling and diluting. Bleeding is very proper at the beginning, and in robuſt conſtitutions it will often be neceſſary to repeat it. The lower part of the belly ſhould be frequently fomented with warm water, or a decoction of mild vegetables; and emollient clyſters ought frequently to be adminiſtered, *&c.*

The patient ſhould abſtain from every thing that is of a hot, acrid, and ſtimulating nature; and

and ſhould live entirely upon ſmall broths, gruels, or mild vegetables.

A STOPPAGE of urine may proceed from other cauſes beſides an inflammation of the bladder; as a ſwelling of the hæmorrhoidal veins, hard *fæces* lodged in the *rectum*; a ſtone in the bladder, excreſcences in the urinary paſſages, a palſy of the bladder, hyſteric affections, *&c.* Each of theſe requires a particular treatment, which does not fall under our preſent conſideration. We ſhall only obſerve, that in all of them a mild and gentle treatment is the ſafeſt, as ſtrong diuretic medicines, or things of an irritating nature, generally increaſe the danger. I have known ſome perſons kill themſelves by introducing probes into the urinary paſſages, to remove, as they thought, ſomewhat that obſtructed the diſcharge of urine, and others bring on a violent inflammation of the bladder, by uſing ſtrong diuretics, as oil of turpentine, *&c.* for that purpoſe.

INFLAMMATION OF THE LIVER.

THE liver is leſs ſubject to inflammation than moſt of the other viſcera, as in it the circulation is ſlower; but when an inflammation does happen, it is with difficulty removed, and often ends in a ſuppuration or ſchirrus.

CAUSES.——Beſides the common cauſes of inflammation, we may here reckon the following,

viz. exceſſive fatneſs, a ſchirrus of the liver itſelf, violent ſhocks from ſtrong vomits when the liver was before unſound, an aduſt or atrabilarian ſtate of the blood, any thing that ſuddenly cools the liver after it has been greatly heated, ſtones obſtructing the courſe of the bile, drinking ſtrong wines and ſpirituous liquors, uſing hot ſpicy aliment, obſtinate hypochondriacal diſtempers, *&c.*

SYMPTOMS.——This diſeaſe is known by a painful tenſion of the right ſide under the falſe ribs, attended with ſome degree of fever, a ſenſe of weight, or fulneſs of the part, difficulty of breathing, loathing of food, great thirſt, with a pale or yellowiſh colour of the ſkin and eyes.

THE *ſymptoms* here are various, according to the degree of inflammation, and likewiſe according to the particular part of the liver where the inflammation happens. Sometimes the pain is ſo inconſiderable, that an inflammation is not ſo much as ſuſpected; but when it happens in the upper or convex part of the liver, the pain is more acute, the pulſe quicker, and the patient is often troubled with a dry cough, a hiccup, and a pain extending to the ſhoulder, with difficulty of lying on the left ſide, *&c.*

THIS diſeaſe may be diſtinguiſhed from the pleuriſy by the pain being leſs violent, ſeated under the falſe ribs, the pulſe not ſo hard, and by the difficulty of lying on the left ſide. It may be diſtinguiſhed from the hyſteric and hypochondriac diſorders

diſorders by the degree of fever, with which it is always attended.

This diſeaſe, if properly treated, is ſeldom mortal. A conſtant hiccuping, violent fever, and exceſſive thirſt, are very bad ſymptoms. If it ends in a ſuppuration, and the matter cannot be diſcharged outwardly, the danger is great. When a ſchirrus of the liver enſues, the patient, if he obſerves a proper regimen, may live a number of years tolerably eaſy; but if he indulges in animal food and ſtrong liquors, or takes medicines of an acrid or irritating nature, the ſchirrus will be converted into a cancer, which muſt infallibly prove fatal.

REGIMEN.——The ſame regimen is to be obſerved in this as in other inflammatory diſorders. All hot things are to be carefully avoided, and cool diluting liquors, as whey, barley-water, &c. drank freely. The food muſt be light and thin, and the body, as well as the mind, kept eaſy and quiet.

MEDICINE.——Bleeding is proper at the beginning of this diſeaſe, and it will often be neceſſary, even though the pulſe ſhould not feel hard, to repeat it. All violent purgatives are to be avoided: the belly however muſt be kept gently open. A decoction of tamarinds, with a little honey or manna, will anſwer this purpoſe very well. The ſide affected muſt be frequently fomented with warm water, in the manner directed

directed in the foregoing diſeaſes. Mild laxative clyſters ſhould be frequently adminiſtered; and, if the pain ſhould notwithſtanding continue violent, a bliſtering plaſter may be applied over the part affected.

MEDICINES which promote the ſecretion of urine have a very good effect here. For this purpoſe half a dram of purified nitre, or half a tea-ſpoonful of the ſweet ſpirits of nitre, may be taken in a cup of the patient's drink three or four times a-day.

WHEN there is an inclination to ſweat, it ought to be promoted, but not by warm ſudorifics. The only thing to be uſed for that purpoſe is plenty of diluting liquors drank about the warmth of the human blood. Indeed the patient in this caſe, as well as in all other topical inflammations, ought to drink nothing that is colder than the blood.

IF the ſtools ſhould be looſe, and even ſtreaked with blood, nothing muſt be given to ſtop them, unleſs they be ſo frequent as to weaken the patient. Looſe ſtools often prove critical, and carry off the diſeaſe.

IF the diſorder, in ſpite of all endeavours to the contrary, ſhould end in a ſchirrus, the patient muſt be careful to regulate his diet, *&c.* in ſuch a manner as not to aggravate the diſeaſe. He muſt not indulge in fleſh, fiſh, ſtrong liquors, or any highly ſeaſoned or ſalted proviſions; but ſhould, for the moſt part, live on mild vegetables, as fruits and roots;

roots; taking gentle exercise, and drinking whey, barley-water, or butter-milk. If he takes any thing stronger, it should be fine mild ale, which is less heating than wines or spirits.

We shall take no notice of inflammations of the other viscera. They must in general be treated upon the same principles as those already mentioned. The chief rule with respect to all of them, is to avoid every thing that is strong, or of a heating nature, to apply warm fomentations to the part affected, and to let the patient drink a sufficient quantity of weak, warm, diluting liquors.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXXI.

OF THE CHOLERA MORBUS, AND OTHER EXCESSIVE DISCHARGES FROM THE STOMACH AND BOWELS.

THE *cholera morbus* is a violent purging and vomiting, attended with gripes, and a conſtant deſire to go to ſtool. It comes on ſuddenly, and is moſt common in autumn. There is hardly any diſeaſe that kills more quickly than this, when proper means are not uſed in due time for removing it.

CAUSES.——It is occaſioned by a redundancy and putrid acrimony of the bile; cold; food that eaſily turns rancid or ſour on the ſtomach; as butter, fat pork, ſweet-meats, cucumbers, melons, cherries, *&c.* It is ſometimes the effect of ſtrong acrid purges or vomits; or of poiſonous ſubſtances taken into the ſtomach. It may likewiſe proceed from violent paſſions or affections of the mind; as fear, anger, *&c.*

SYMPTOMS.——It is generally preceeded by a *cardialgia*, or heart-burn, ſour belchings, and flatulences, with pain of the ſtomach and inteſtines. To theſe ſucceed exceſſive vomiting, and purging of

of green, yellow, or blackiſh-coloured bile, with a diſtention of the ſtomach, and violent griping pains. There is likewiſe a great thirſt, with a very quick unequal pulſe, and often a fixed acute pain about the region of the navel. As the diſeaſe advances, the pulſe often ſinks ſo low as to become quite imperceptible, the extremities grow cold, or cramped, and are often covered with a clammy ſweat, the urine is obſtructed, and there is a palpitation of the heart. Violent hiccuping, fainting, and convulſions are the ſigns of approaching death.

MEDICINE.——At the beginning of this diſeaſe the efforts of nature to expel the offending cauſe muſt be aſſiſted, by promoting the purging and vomiting. For this purpoſe the patient muſt drink freely of diluting liquors; as whey, butter-milk, warm water, thin water-gruel, ſmall poſſet, or, what is perhaps preferable to any of them, very weak chicken broth. This ſhould not only be drank plentifully to promote the vomiting, but a clyſter of it given every hour, in order to promote the purging.

After theſe evacuations have been continued for ſome time, a decoction of toaſted oat-bread may be drank to ſtop the vomiting. The bread ſhould be toaſted till it is of a brown colour, and afterwards boiled in ſpring-water. If oat-bread cannot be had, wheat-bread, or oat-meal well toaſted,

toaſted, may be uſed in its ſtead. If this does not put a ſtop to the vomiting, two table-ſpoonfuls of the ſaline julep, with ten drops of laudanum, may be taken every hour till it ceaſes.

The vomiting and purging however ought never to be ſtopped too ſoon. So long as theſe diſcharges do not weaken the patient they are ſalutary, and may be allowed to go on, or rather ought to be promoted. But when the patient is weakened by the evacuations, which may be known from the ſinking of his pulſe, &c. recourſe muſt immediately be had to opiates, as recommended above; to which may be added ſtrong wines, with ſpirituous cinnamon waters, and other generous cordials. Warm negas, or ſtrong wine-whey, will likewiſe be neceſſary to ſupport the patient's ſpirits, and promote the perſpiration. His legs ſhould be bathed in warm water, and afterwards rubbed with flannel-cloths, or wrapped in warm blankets, and warm bricks applied to the ſoles of his feet.

When the violence of the diſeaſe is over, to prevent a relapſe, it will be neceſſary, for ſome time, to continue the uſe of ſmall doſes of laudanum. Ten or twelve drops may be taken in a glaſs of wine, at leaſt twice a-day, for eight or ten days. The patient's food ought to be nouriſhing, but taken in ſmall quantities, and he ſhould uſe moderate exerciſe. As the ſtomach and inteſtines

teſtines are generally much weakened, an infuſion of the bark, or other bitters, in ſmall wine, may be drank for ſome time.

THOUGH phyſicians are ſeldom called in due time in this diſeaſe, they ought not to deſpair of relieving the patient even in the moſt deſperate circumſtances. Of this I lately ſaw a very ſtriking inſtance in an old man and his ſon, who had been both ſeized with it about the middle of the night. I did not ſee them till next morning, when they had much more the appearance of dead than of living men. No pulſe could be felt; the extremities were cold, and rigid; the countenance was ghaſtly, and the ſtrength almoſt quite exhauſted. Yet from this deplorable condition they were both recovered by the uſe of opiates and cordial medicines.

OF A DIARRHŒA, OR LOOSENESS.

A LOOSENESS, in many caſes, is not to be conſidered as a diſeaſe, but rather as a ſalutary evacuation. It ought therefore never to be ſtopped unleſs when it continues too long, or evidently weakens the patient. As this however ſometimes happens, we ſhall point out the moſt common cauſes of a looſeneſs, with the method of treatment proper in each caſe.

WHEN a looſeneſs is occaſioned by catching cold, or an obſtructed perſpiration, the patient ought to keep warm, to drink freely of weak di-

luting liquors, to bathe his feet and legs frequently in lukewarm water, to wear flannel next his ſkin, and to take every other method to reſtore the perſpiration.

In a looſeneſs which proceeds from exceſs or repletion, a vomit is the proper medicine. Vomits not only cleanſe the ſtomach, but promote all the ſecretions, which renders them of great importance in carrying off a debauch. Half a dram of ipecacuanha in powder will anſwer this purpoſe very well. A day or two after the vomit, the ſame quantity of rhubarb may be taken, and repeated two or three times, if the looſeneſs continues. The patient ought to live upon light vegetable food of eaſy digeſtion, and to drink whey, thin gruel, or barley-water.

A LOOSENESS occaſioned by the obſtruction of any cuſtomary evacuation, generally requires bleeding. If that does not ſucceed, other evacuations may be ſubſtituted in the room of thoſe which are obſtructed. At the ſame time, every method is to be taken to reſtore the uſual diſcharges, as not only the cure of the diſeaſe, but the patient's life may depend on this.

A PERIODICAL looſeneſs ought never to be ſtopped. It is always an effort of nature to carry off ſome offending matter, which, if retained in the body, might have fatal effects. Children are very liable to this kind of looſeneſs, eſpecially while teething. It is however ſo far from being hurtful

to them, that ſuch children generally get their teeth with leaſt trouble. If theſe looſe ſtools ſhould at any time prove ſour or griping, a tea-ſpoonful of magneſia alba, with four or five grains of rhubarb, may be given to the child in a little panado, or any other food. This, if repeated three or four times, will generally correct the acidity, and carry off the griping ſtools.

A DIARRHOEA or looſeneſs which proceeds from violent paſſions or affections of the mind, muſt be treated with the greateſt caution. Vomits in this caſe are highly improper. Nor are purges ſafe, unleſs they be very mild, and given in ſmall quantities. Opiates, and other antiſpaſmodic medicines are moſt proper. Ten or twelve drops of liquid laudanum may be taken in a cup of valerian or penny-royal tea, every eight or ten hours, till the ſymptoms abate. Eaſe, cheerfulneſs, and tranquillity of mind, are here of the greateſt importance.

WHEN a looſeneſs proceeds from acrid or poiſonous ſubſtances taken into the ſtomach, the patient muſt drink large quantities of diluting liquors, with oil or fat broths, to promote vomiting and purging. Afterwards, if there be reaſon to ſuſpect that the bowels are inflamed, bleeding will be neceſſary. Small doſes of laudanum may likewiſe be taken to remove the irritation on the bowels.

WHEN the gout, repelled from the extremities, occaſions a looſeneſs, it ought to be promoted

moted by gentle doſes of rhubarb, or other mild purgatives. The gouty matter is likewiſe to be drawn towards the extremities by warm fomentations, cataplaſms, &c. The perſpiration ought at the ſame time to be promoted by warm diluting liquors; as wine-whey with ſpirits of hartſhorn, or a few drops of liquid laudanum in it.

When a looſeneſs proceeds from worms, ſuch medicines ought to be uſed as kill or carry off theſe vermin; as powder of tin, with purges of rhubarb and calomel, &c. The proper doſes of theſe medicines will be pointed out when we come to treat of diſeaſes occaſioned by worms.

A looseness is often occaſioned by drinking bad water. When this is the caſe, the diſeaſe generally proves epidemical. When there is reaſon to believe, that this or any other diſeaſe proceeds from the uſe of unwholeſome water, it ought immediately to be changed, or, if that cannot be done, it may be corrected by mixing with it quick-lime, chalk, or the like.

In people whoſe ſtomachs are weak, violent exerciſe immediately after eating will occaſion a looſeneſs. Though the cure of this is obvious, yet it will be proper, beſides avoiding violent exerciſe, to uſe ſuch medicines as tend to brace and ſtrengthen the ſtomach, as infuſions of the bark, with other bitter and aſtringent medicines, in white wine. Such perſons ought likewiſe to take frequently a glaſs or two of old red port, or good claret.

Persons

PERSONS who, from a peculiar weakneſs, or too great an irritability of the bowels, are liable to frequent returns of this diſeaſe, ſhould live temperately, avoiding crude ſummer fruits, all unwholeſome food, and meats of hard digeſtion. They ought likewiſe to beware of cold, moiſture, or whatever may obſtruct the perſpiration, and ſhould wear flannel next their ſkin. All violent paſſions as fear, anger, *&c.* are likewiſe carefully to be guarded againſt.

OF VOMITING.

VOMITING may proceed from various cauſes; as exceſs in eating or drinking; foulneſs of the ſtomach; the acrimony of the aliments; a tranſlation of the morbific matter of ulcers, of the gout, the eryſipelas, or other diſeaſes, to the ſtomach. It may likewiſe proceed from a looſeneſs having been too ſuddenly ſtopped, or from the ſtoppage of any cuſtomary evacuation, as the bleeding piles, the *menſes*, *&c.* Vomiting may proceed from a weakneſs of the ſtomach, the colic, the iliac paſſion, a rupture, a fit of the gravel, worms, or from any kind of poiſon taken into the ſtomach. It is an uſual ſymptom of injuries done to the brain; as contuſions, compreſſions, *&c.* It is likewiſe a ſymptom of wounds, or inflammations of the diaphragm, inteſtines, ſpleen, liver, kidneys, *&c.*

VOMITING may be occaſioned by unuſual motions; as ſailing, being drawn backwards in a cart or coach, *&c.* It may likewiſe be excited by violent paſſions, or by the idea of nauſeous or diſagreeable objects, eſpecially of ſuch things as have formerly produced vomiting. Sometimes it proceeds from a regurgitation of the bile into the ſtomach: in this caſe what the patient vomits is generally of a yellow or greeniſh colour, and has a bitter taſte. Perſons who are ſubject to nervous affections are often ſuddenly ſeized with violent fits of vomiting. Laſtly, Vomiting is a common ſymptom of pregnancy. In this caſe it generally comes on about two weeks after the ſtoppage of the *menſes*, and continues during the firſt three or four months.

WHEN vomiting proceeds from a foul ſtomach or indigeſtion, it is not to be conſidered as a diſeaſe, but as the cure of a diſeaſe. It ought therefore to be promoted by drinking lukewarm water, or thin gruel. If this does not put a ſtop to the vomiting, a doſe of ipecacuanha may be taken, and worked off with weak camomile-tea.

WHEN the retroceſſion of the gout, or the obſtruction of cuſtomary evacuations occaſion vomiting, all means muſt be uſed to reſtore theſe diſcharges; or, if that cannot be effected, their place muſt be ſupplied by others, as bleeding, purging, bathing the extremities in warm water, opening iſſues, ſetons, perpetual bliſters, *&c.*

WHEN

When vomiting is the effect of pregnancy, it may generally be mitigated by bleeding, and keeping the belly gently open. The bleeding however ought to be in ſmall quantities at a time, and the purgatives ſhould be of the mildeſt kind, as figs, ſtewed prunes, manna or ſenna. Pregnant women are moſt apt to vomit in the morning, immediately after getting out of bed, which is owing partly to the change of poſture, but more to the emptineſs of the ſtomach. It may generally be prevented by taking a diſh of tea, or ſome light breakfaſt in bed. Pregnant women who are afflicted with vomiting ought to be kept eaſy both in body and mind. They ſhould neither allow their ſtomachs to be quite empty, nor ſhould they eat much at once. Cold water is a very proper drink in this caſe; if the ſtomach be weak, a little brandy may be added to it. If the ſpirits be low, and the perſon apt to faint, a ſpoonful of cinnamon-water, with a little marmalade of quinces or oranges, may be taken.

If vomiting proceeds from weakneſs of the ſtomach, bitters will be of ſervice, as the Gentian root, camomile and ſnake-root, infuſed in brandy or wine. To theſe may be added as much rhubarb as will keep the belly gently open. The Peruvian bark is likewiſe an excellent medicine for bracing and ſtrengthening the ſtomach. It may be drank in form of tea, or infuſed in wine or brandy, &c. The elixir of vitriol is alſo a good

medicine in this caſe. It may be taken in the doſe of fifteen or twenty drops, twice or thrice a-day, in a glaſs of wine or water.

A VOMITING which proceeds from acidities in the ſtomach is relieved by alkaline purges. The beſt medicine of this kind is the magneſia alba, a tea-ſpoonful of which may be taken in a diſh of tea or a little milk, three or four times a-day, or oftener if neceſſary, to keep the belly open.

WHEN vomiting proceeds from violent paſſions, or affections of the mind, all evacuations muſt be carefully avoided, eſpecially vomits. Theſe are exceeding dangerous. The patient in this caſe ought to be kept perfectly eaſy and quiet, to have the mind ſoothed, and to take ſome gentle cordial, as negas, or a little brandy and water, to which a few drops of laudanum may occaſionally be added.

WHEN vomiting proceeds from ſpaſmodic affections of the ſtomach, muſk, caſtor, and other antiſpaſmodic medicines, are of uſe. Aromatic plaſters have likewiſe a good effect. The ſtomach plaſter of the London or Edinburgh diſpenſatory may be applied to the pit of the ſtomach, or rather a little towards the left ſide, ſo as to cover a part of the falſe ribs. Aromatic medicines may likewiſe be taken inwardly, as cinnamon or mint-tea, wine with ſpiceries boiled in it, *&c.* The region of the ſtomach may be rubbed with æther, or, if that cannot be had, with ſtrong brandy,

brandy, or other ſpirits. The belly ſhould be fomented with warm water, or the patient immerſed up to the breaſt in a warm bath.

I HAVE always found the ſaline draughts taken in the act of effervescence, of ſingular uſe in ſtopping a vomiting, from whatever cauſe it proceeded. Theſe may be prepared by diſſolving a dram of the ſalt of tartar in an ounce and half of freſh lemon-juice, and adding to it an ounce of pepper-mint-water, the ſame quantity of ſimple cinnamon-water, and a little white ſugar. This draught muſt be ſwallowed before the effervescence be quite over, and may be repeated every two hours, or oftener, if the vomiting be violent.

As the leaſt motion will often bring on the vomiting again, even after it has been ſtopped, the patient muſt avoid all manner of action. His diet muſt be ſo regulated as to ſit eaſy upon the ſtomach, and he ſhould take nothing that is hard of digeſtion. We do not however mean that he ſhould live entirely upon ſlops. Solid food, in this caſe, often ſits eaſier on the ſtomach than liquids.

CHAP. XXXII.

OF THE DIABETES, AND OTHER DISORDERS OF THE KIDNEYS AND BLADDER.

THE diabetes is a frequent and exceſſive diſcharge of urine. It is ſeldom to be met with among young people; but often attacks perſons in the decline of life, eſpecially thoſe who follow the more violent employments, or have been hard drinkers in their youth.

CAUSES.——A diabetes is often the conſequence of acute diſeaſes, as fevers, fluxes, *&c.* where the patient has ſuffered by exceſſive evacuations; it may alſo be occaſioned by great fatigue, as riding long journies upon a hard-trotting horſe, carrying heavy burdens, running, *&c.* It may be brought on by the uſe of ſtrong ſtimulating diuretic medicines, as tincture of cantharides, ſpirits of turpentine, and ſuch like. It is often the effect of drinking too great quantities of mineral waters. Many imagine that theſe will do them no ſervice unleſs they be drank in great quantities, by which miſtake it happens that they often occaſion worſe diſeaſes than thoſe they were intended to cure. In a word, this diſeaſe may either proceed from

from too great a laxity of the organs which ſecrete the urine, from ſomething that ſtimulates the kidneys too much, or from a thin diſſolved ſtate of the blood, which makes too great a quantity of it run off by the urinary paſſages.

SYMPTOMS.——In a diabetes the urine generally exceeds in quantity all the liquid food which the patient takes. It is thin and pale, of a ſweetiſh taſte, and an agreeable ſmell. The patient has a continual thirſt, with ſome degree of fever; his mouth is dry, and he ſpits frequently a frothy ſpittle. The ſtrength fails, the appetite decays, and the fleſh waſtes away till the patient is reduced to ſkin and bone. There is a heat of the bowels; and frequently the loins, teſticles, and feet are ſwelled.

THIS diſeaſe may generally be cured at the beginning; but, after it has continued long, the cure becomes very difficult. In drunkards, and very old people, a perfect cure is not to be expected.

REGIMEN.——Every thing that ſtimulates the urinary paſſages, or tends to relax the habit, muſt be avoided. For this reaſon the patient ſhould live chiefly on ſolid food. His thirſt may be quenched with acids; as ſorrel, juice of lemon, or vinegar. The mucilaginous vegetables; as rice, ſago, and ſalep, with milk, are the moſt proper food. Of animal ſubſtances, ſhell-fiſh are to be preferred; as oyſters, crabs, &c.

His drink may be Briſtol-water. When that cannot be obtained, lime-water with milk may be uſed. This will be better if an ounce of gum arabic be diſſolved in every pound of it. The white decoction, with iſinglaſs diſſolved in it, is likewiſe a very proper drink *.

The patient ought daily to take exerciſe, but it ſhould be ſo gentle as not to fatigue him. He ſhould lie upon a hard bed or mattreſs. Nothing hurts the kidneys more than lying too ſoft. A warm dry air, the uſe of the fleſh bruſh, and every thing that promotes perſpiration, is of ſervice. For this reaſon the patient ought to wear flannel next his ſkin. A large ſtrengthening plaſter may be applied to the back: or, what will anſwer the ſame purpoſe, a broad girdle may be worn about the loins.

MEDICINE.——Gentle purges, if the patient be not too much weakened by the diſeaſe, have a good effect. They may conſiſt of rhubarb, with cardamum ſeeds, or any other ſpiceries, infuſed in wine, and may be taken in ſuch quantity as to keep the belly gently open.

The patient muſt next have recourſe to aſtringents and corroborants. Half a dram of powder

* The white decoction may be made by boiling two ounces of calcined hartſhorn, and half an ounce of gum arabic, in three Engliſh pints of water, to two; and afterwards ſtraining it.

made

made of equal parts of allum and the gum called *dragon's blood*, may be taken four times a-day, or oftener if the ſtomach will bear it. The allum muſt firſt be melted in a crucible; afterwards they may both be pounded together. Along with every doſe of this powder the patient may take a tea-cupful of the tincture of roſes *.

If the patient's ſtomach cannot bear the allum in ſubſtance, whey may be made of it, and taken in the doſe of three or four ounces three times a-day. The allum-whey is prepared by boiling two Engliſh quarts of milk over a ſlow fire, with three drams of allum, till the curd ſeparates.

Opiates are of ſervice in this diſeaſe, even though the patient reſts well. They take off ſpaſm and irritation, and at the ſame time leſſen the force of the circulation. Ten or twelve drops of liquid laudanum may be taken in a cup of the patient's drink two or three times a-day.

The beſt corroborants which we know, are the Peruvian bark and wine. A dram of bark may be taken in a glaſs of red port or claret three times a-day. The medicine will be both more efficacious and leſs diſagreeable, if fifteen or twenty

* The tincture of roſes is made by infuſing an ounce of the dried leaves of red roſes, and a dram of the ſpirit of vitriol, in two Engliſh pints of boiling water, in a ſtone-ware veſſel, for four hours. Afterwards the tincture muſt be filtred, and four or five ounces of white ſugar may be added to it.

drops

drops of the acid elixir of vitriol be added to every doſe. Such as cannot take the bark in ſubſtance may uſe the decoction, mixed with an equal quantity of red wine, and ſharpened as above.

THERE is a diſeaſe pretty incident to labouring people in the decline of life, called *an INCONTINENCY of urine*. But this is entirely different from a diabetes, as the water paſſes off involuntarily by drops, and does not exceed the uſual quantity. This diſeaſe is rather troubleſome than dangerous. It is owing to a relaxation of the ſphincter of the bladder, and is often the effect of a palſy. Sometimes it proceeds from hurts, or injuries occaſioned by blows, bruiſes, preternatural labours, *&c.* Sometimes it is the effect of a fever. It may likewiſe be occaſioned by a long uſe of ſtrong diuretics, or of ſtimulating medicines injected into the bladder.

THIS diſeaſe may be mitigated by the uſe of aſtringent and corroborating medicines, ſuch as have been mentioned above; but we do not remember ever to have ſeen it cured.

OF A SUPPRESSION OF URINE.

IT has already been obſerved, that a ſuppreſſion of urine may proceed from various cauſes; as an inflammation of the kidneys, or bladder; ſmall ſtones or gravel lodging in the urinary paſſages, hard

hard *faces* lying in the *rectum*, a ſpaſm or contraction of the neck of bladder, clotted blood in the bladder itſelf, a ſwelling of the hæmorrhoidal veins, *&c.*

Some of theſe caſes require the cathater, both to remove the obſtructing matter, and to draw off the urine; but as this inſtrument can only be managed with ſafety by perſons ſkilled in ſurgery, we ſhall ſay nothing further of its uſe.

We would chiefly recommend, in all obſtructions of urine, fomentations and evacuations. Bleeding, as far as the patient's ſtrength will permit, is neceſſary, eſpecially where there are ſymptoms of topical inflammation. Bleeding in this caſe not only abates the fever, by leſſening the force of the circulation, but, by relaxing the ſolids, takes off the ſpaſm or ſtricture upon the veſſels, which occaſioned the obſtruction.

After bleeding, fomentations muſt be uſed. Theſe may either conſiſt of warm water alone, or of decoctions of mild vegetables; as mallows, camomile-flowers, *&c.* Cloths dipped in theſe may either be applied to the part affected, or a large bladder filled with the decoction may be kept continually upon it. Some put the herbs themſelves into a flannel-bag, and apply them to the part, which is far from being a bad method. Theſe continue longer warm than cloths dipped in the decoction, and at the ſame time keep the part equally moiſt.

In

In all obſtructions of urine the body ought to be kept open. This is not however to be attempted by ſtrong purgatives, but by emollient clyſters, or gentle infuſions of ſenna and manna. Clyſters in this caſe not only open the belly, but anſwer the purpoſe of an internal fomentation, and greatly aſſiſt in removing the ſpaſms of the bladder and parts adjacent.

The food muſt be light, and taken in ſmall quantities. The drink may be weak broth, or decoctions and infuſions of mucilaginous vegetables, as marſh mallow roots, lime-tree buds, *&c.* A tea-ſpoonful of the ſweet ſpirits of nitre, or a dram of Caſtile ſoap, may be frequently put into the patient's drink; and, if there be no inflammation, he may drink ſmall gin-punch without acid.

Persons ſubject to a ſuppreſſion of urine ought to live very temperate. Their diet ſhould be light, and their liquor diluting. They ſhould avoid all acids and ſtrong wines, ſhould take ſufficient exerciſe, lie hard, and avoid ſtudy and ſedentary occupations.

OF THE GRAVEL AND STONE.

When ſmall ſtones are lodged in the kidneys, or diſcharged along with the urine, the patient is ſaid to be afflicted with the gravel. If one of theſe ſtones happens to make a lodgment in the bladder for

for ſome time, it accumulates freſh matter and at length becomes too large to paſs off with the urine. In this caſe the patient is ſaid to have the ſtone.

CAUSES.——The ſtone and gravel may be occaſioned by high living; the uſe of ſtrong aſtringent wines; a ſedentary life; lying too hot, ſoft, or too much on the back; the conſtant uſe of water impregnated with earthy or ſtony particles; aliments of an aſtringent or windy nature, *&c.* It may likewiſe proceed from an hereditary diſpoſition. Perſons in the decline of life, and thoſe who have been much afflicted with the gout or rheumatiſm, are moſt ſubject to it.

SYMPTOMS.——Small ſtones or gravel in the kidneys occaſion pain in the loins; ſickneſs; vomiting; and ſometimes bloody urine. When the ſtone deſcends into the *ureter*, and is too large to paſs along with eaſe, all the above ſymptoms are increaſed; the pain extends towards the bladder; the thigh and leg of the affected ſide are benumbed; the teſticles are drawn upwards, and the urine is obſtructed.

A STONE in the bladder is known from a pain at the time, as well as before and after making water; from the urine coming away by drops, or ſtopping ſuddenly when it was running in a full ſtream; by a violent pain in the neck of the bladder upon motion, eſpecially on horſeback, or in a coach on rough road; from a white, thick, copious, ſtinking, mucous ſediment in the urine; from an itching in the top of the *penis*; from an

inclination to go to ſtool during the diſcharge of urine; from the patient's paſſing his urine more eaſily when lying than in an erect poſture; from a kind of convulſive motion occaſioned by the ſharp pain in diſcharging the laſt drops of the urine: and laſtly from ſounding or ſearching with the cathater.

REGIMEN.——Perſons afflicted with the gravel or ſtone ſhould avoid aliments of a windy or heating nature, as ſalt meats, ſour fruits, *&c.* Their diet ought chiefly to conſiſt of ſuch things as tend to promote the ſecretion of urine, and to keep the belly open. Artichoaks, aſparagus, ſpinnage, lettuce, parſley, ſuccory, purſlane, turnips, potatoes, carrots, and radiſhes may be ſafely eaten. Onions, leeks, and cellery are, in this caſe, reckoned medicinal. The moſt proper drinks are whey, butter-milk, milk and water, barley-water; decoctions of the roots of marſh-mallows, parſley, liquorice; or of other mild mucilaginous vegetables, as linſeed, *&c.* If the patient has been accuſtomed to generous liquors, he may drink ſmall gin-punch without acid.

GENTLE exerciſe is proper; but violent exerciſe is apt to occaſion bloody urine. We would therefore adviſe that it ſhould be taken in moderation. Perſons afflicted with gravel often paſs a great number of ſtones after riding on horſeback, or in a carriage; but thoſe who have a ſtone in the bladder are ſeldom able to bear theſe kinds of exerciſe. Where there is a hereditary tendency to

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this diſeaſe, a ſedentary life ought never to be indulged. Were people careful, upon the firſt ſymptoms of gravel, to obſerve a proper regimen of diet, and to take ſufficient exerciſe, it might often be carried off, or, at leaſt, prevented from increaſing; but if the ſame courſe which occaſioned the diſeaſe be perſiſted in, it cannot fail to aggravate it.

MEDICINE.——In what is called a fit of the gravel, which is commonly occaſioned by a ſtone ſticking in the *ureter* or ſome part of the urinary paſſages, the patient muſt be bled, warm fomentations ſhould likewiſe be applied to the part affected, emollient clyſters adminiſtered, and diluting mucilaginous liquors drank, *&c.* The treatment of this caſe has been fully pointed out under the articles, *inflammation of the kidneys and bladder*, to which therefore we refer.

Dr. Whytt adviſes patients who are ſubject to frequent fits of gravel in the kidneys, but have no ſtone in the bladder, to drink every morning, two or three hours before breakfaſt, an Engliſh pint of oyſter or cockle-ſhell lime-water. The Doctor very juſtly obſerves, that though this quantity might be too ſmall to have any ſenſible effect in diſſolving a ſtone in the bladder; yet it may very probably prevent its growth.

When a ſtone is formed in the bladder, the Doctor recommends Alicant ſoap, and oyſter or

cockle-ſhell lime-water* to be taken in the following manner. The patient muſt ſwallow every day, in any form that is leaſt diſagreeable, an ounce of the internal part of Alicant ſoap, and drink three or four Engliſh pints of oyſter or cockle-ſhell lime-water. The ſoap is to be divided into three doſes; the largeſt to be taken faſting in the morning early; the ſecond at noon; and the third at ſeven in the evening, drinking above each doſe a large draught of the lime-water; the remainder of which he may take any time betwixt dinner and ſupper, inſtead of other liquors.

The patient ſhould begin with a ſmaller quantity of the lime-water and ſoap than that mentioned above; at firſt an Engliſh pint of the former and three drams of the latter may be taken daily. This quantity, however, he may increaſe by degrees, and ought to perſevere in the uſe of theſe medicines, eſpecially if he finds any abatement of his complaints, for ſeveral months; nay, if the ſtone be very large, for years. It may likewiſe be proper for the patient, if he be ſeverely

* Oyſter-ſhell lime-water is prepared by pouring an Engliſh gallon and a half of boiling water upon a pound of oyſter-ſhells reduced to quick lime by being burnt. Where oyſter or cockle-ſhells cannot be had, common quick-lime may be uſed in their ſtead. After the clear liquor has been poured off, the ſame quantity of lime will make a ſecond or third quantity of water of nearly the ſame ſtrength as the firſt.

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pained, not only to begin with the ſoap and lime-water in ſmall quantities, but to take the ſecond or third lime-water inſtead of the firſt. However, after he has been for ſome time accuſtomed to theſe medicines, he may not only take the firſt water, but, if he finds he can eaſily bear it, heighten its diſſolving power ſtill more by pouring it a ſecond time on freſh calcined ſhells.

THE only other medicine which we ſhall mention is the *uva urſi*. It has been greatly extolled of late both for the gravel and ſtone. It ſeems, however, to be, in all reſpects, inferior to the ſoap and lime-water; but as it is leſs diſagreeable, and has frequently, to my knowledge, relieved gravelly complaints, it deſerves a trial. It is generally taken in powder from half a dram to a whole dram, two or three times a-day. It may however be taken to the quantity of ſeven or eight drams a-day, with great ſafety and good effect.

CHAP. XXXIII.

OF INVOLUNTARY DISCHARGES OF BLOOD.

SPONTANEOUS, or involuntary diſcharges of blood, often happen from various parts of the body. Theſe however are ſo far from being always dangerous, that they prove often ſalutary. When ſuch diſcharges are critical, which is frequently the caſe in fevers, they ought not to be ſtopped. Nor indeed is it proper at any time to ſtop them, unleſs they be ſo great as to endanger the patient's life. Moſt people, afraid of the ſmalleſt diſcharge of blood from any part of the body, fly immediately to the uſe of ſtyptic and aſtringent medicines, by which means an inflammation of the brain, or ſome other fatal diſeaſe, is occaſioned, which, had the diſcharge been allowed to go on, might have been prevented.

PERIODICAL diſcharges of blood, from whatever part of the body they proceed, muſt not be ſtopped. They are always the efforts of nature to relieve herſelf, and fatal diſeaſes have often been the conſequence of obſtructing them. It may indeed be ſometimes neceſſary to check the violence of ſuch diſcharges; but even this requires the greateſt caution. Inſtances might be given where the ſtopping of a ſmall periodical flux of blood, from one of the fingers, has proved fatal.

IN

In the early period of life, bleeding at the nose is very common. Those who are farther advanced in years are more liable to a hæmoptoe, or discharge of blood from the lungs. After the middle period of life, hæmorrhoidal fluxes are most common, and in the decline of life, discharges of blood from the urinary passages.

Involuntary fluxes of blood may proceed from very different, and often from quite opposite causes. Sometimes they are owing to a particular construction of the body, as a sanguine temperament, a laxity of the vessels, a plethoric habit, &c. At other times they proceed from a determination of the blood towards one particular part, as the head, the hæmorrhoidal veins, &c. They may likewise proceed from an inflammatory disposition of the blood, in which case there is generally some degree of fever; this likewise happens when the flux is occasioned by an obstructed perspiration, or a stricture upon the skin, the bowels, or any particular part of the system.

But a dissolved state of the blood will likewise occasion hæmorrhages. Thus, in putrid fevers, the dysentery, the scurvy, the malignant small-pox, &c. there are often very great discharges of blood from different parts of the body. They may likewise be brought on by too liberal an use of medicines which tend to dissolve the blood, as cantharides, the volatile alcaline salts, &c. Food of an acrid or irritating quality may likewise occasion hæmorrhages; as also strong purges and vomits, or any thing that greatly stimulates the bowels.

VIOLENT paſſions or agitations of the mind will likewiſe occaſion hæmorrhages. Theſe often cauſe bleeding at the noſe, and I have known them ſometimes occaſion an hæmorrhage in the brain. Violent efforts of the body, by overſtraining or hurting the veſſels, may have the ſame effect, eſpecially when the body is long kept in an unnatural poſture, as hanging the head very low, &c.

THE cure of an hæmorrhage muſt be adapted to its cauſe. When it proceeds from too much blood, or a tendency to inflammation, bleeding, with gentle purges and other evacuations, will be neceſſary. It will likewiſe be proper for the patient in this caſe to live chiefly upon a vegetable diet, to avoid all ſtrong liquors, and food that is of an acrid, hot, or ſtimulating quality. The body ſhould be kept cool, and the mind eaſy.

WHEN an hæmorrhage is owing to a putrid or diſſolved ſtate of the blood, the patient ought to live chiefly upon acid fruits with milk, and vegetables of a nouriſhing nature, as ſago, ſalep, &c. His drink may be wine diluted with water, and ſharpened with the juice of lemon, vinegar, or ſpirits of vitriol. The beſt medicine in this caſe is the Peruvian bark, which may be taken according to the urgency of the ſymptoms.

WHEN a flux of blood is the effect of acrid food, or of ſtrong ſtimulating medicines, the cure is to be effected by ſoft and mucilaginous diet. The patient may likewiſe take frequently about

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the bulk of a nutmeg of Locatelli's balſam, or the ſame quantity of ſperma ceti.

When an obſtructed perſpiration, or a ſtricture upon any part of the ſyſtem, is the cauſe of an hæmorrhage, it may be removed by drinking warm diluting liquors, lying a-bed, bathing the extremities in warm water, *&c.*

OF BLEEDING AT THE NOSE.

Bleeding at the noſe is commonly preceded by ſome degree of quickneſs of the pulſe, a fluſhing in the face, pulſation of the temporal arteries, heavineſs in the head, dimneſs of the ſight, heat and itching of the noſtrils, *&c.*

To perſons who abound with blood this diſcharge is very ſalutary. It often cures a vertigo, the headach, a phrenzy, and even an epilepſy. In fevers where there is a great determination of blood towards the head, it is of the utmoſt ſervice. It is likewiſe beneficial in inflammations of the liver and ſpleen, and often in the gout and rheumatiſm. In all diſeaſes where bleeding is neceſſary a ſpontaneous diſcharge of blood from the noſe, is of much more ſervice than the ſame quantity let with a lancet.

In a diſcharge of blood from the noſe, the great point is to determine whether it ought to be ſtopped or not. It is a common practice to ſtop the bleeding, without conſidering whether it be a diſeaſe, or the cure of the diſeaſe. This conduct

proceeds from fear; but it has often bad, and ſometimes even fatal conſequences.

When a diſcharge of blood from the noſe happens in an inflammatory diſeaſe, there is always reaſon to believe that it may prove ſalutary; and therefore it ſhould be ſuffered to go on, at leaſt as long as the patient is not weakened by it.

When it happens to perſons in perfect health, who are full of blood, it ought not to be ſuddenly ſtopped; eſpecially if the ſymptoms of plethora, mentioned above, have preceded it. In this caſe it cannot be ſtopped without riſking the patient's life.

In fine, whenever bleeding at the noſe relieves any bad ſymptom, and does not proceed ſo far as to endanger the patient's life, it ought not to be ſtopped. But when it returns frequently, or continues till the pulſe becomes low, the extremities begin to grow cold, the lips pale, or the patient complains of being ſick, or faint, it muſt immediately be ſtopped.

For this purpoſe the patient ſhould be ſet nearly upright, with his head inclining a little backwards, and his legs immerſed in water about the warmth of new milk. His hands ought likewiſe to be put in lukewarm water, and his garters may be tied a little tighter than uſual. Ligatures may likewiſe be applied to the arms, about the place where they are uſually made for bleeding, and with nearly the ſame degree of tightneſs. Theſe muſt be gradually ſlackened as the blood begins

begins to ſtop, and removed entirely as ſoon as it gives over.

Sometimes dry lint put up the noſtrils will ſtop the bleeding. When this does not ſucceed, doſſils of lint dipped in ſtrong ſpirits of wine, may be put up the noſtrils, or, if that cannot be had, they may be dipped in brandy. Blue vitriol diſſolved in water may likewiſe be uſed for this purpoſe, or a tent dipped in the white of an egg well beat up, may be rolled in a powder made of equal parts of white ſugar, burnt allum, and white vitriol, and put up the noſtril from whence the blood iſſues.

Internal medicines can hardly be of uſe here, as they have ſeldom time to operate. It may not however be amiſs to give the patient half an ounce of Glauber's ſalt, and the ſame quantity of manna, diſſolved in four or five ounces of barley-water. This may be taken at a draught, and repeated if it does not operate in a few hours. Ten or twelve grains of nitre may be taken in a glaſs of cold water and vinegar every hour, or oftener, if the ſtomach will bear it. If a ſtronger medicine be neceſſary, a tea-cupful of the tincture of roſes, with twenty or thirty drops of the ſmall ſpirit of vitriol, may be taken every hour. When theſe things cannot be had, the patient may drink water, with a little common ſalt in it, or equal parts of water and vinegar.

If the genitals be immerſed for ſome time in cold water, it will generally ſtop a bleeding at the noſe.—I have ſeldom known this fail.

Sometimes when the bleeding is ſtopped outwardly, it continues inwardly. This is very troubleſome, and requires particular attention, as the patient is apt to be ſuffocated with the blood, eſpecially if he falls aſleep, which he is very apt to do after loſing a great quantity of blood *.

After the bleeding is ſtopped, the patient ought to be kept as eaſy and quiet as poſſible. He ſhould not pick his noſe, nor take away the tents or clotted blood, till they fall off of their own accord, and ſhould not lie with his head low.

Thoſe who are affected with frequent bleeding at the noſe ought to bathe their feet often in warm water, and to keep them warm and dry. They ought to wear nothing tight about their necks, to keep their body as much in an erect poſture as poſſible, and never to view any object obliquely. If they have too much blood, a vegetable diet, with now and then a doſe of phyſic, is the ſafeſt way to leſſen it.

But when the diſeaſe proceeds from a thin diſſolved ſtate of the blood, the diet ſhould be rich and nouriſhing; as ſtrong broths and jellies, ſago-gruel with wine and ſugar, &c. Infuſions of the Peruvian bark in wine ought likewiſe to be taken and perſiſted in for a conſiderable time.

* When the patient is in danger of ſuffocation from the blood getting into his throat, the paſſages may be ſtopped by drawing threads up the noſtrils, and bringing them out at the mouth, then faſtening pledgets or ſmall rolls of linen cloth to their extremities; afterwards drawing them back and tying them on the outſide with a ſufficient degree of tightneſs.

OF THE BLEEDING AND BLIND PILES.

A DISCHARGE of blood from the hæmorrhoidal veſſels is called the *bleeding piles*. When the veſſels only ſwell, and diſcharge no blood, but are exceeding painful, the diſeaſe is called the *blind piles*.

PERSONS of a looſe ſpungy fibre, of a bulky ſize, who live high, and lead a ſedentary inactive life, are moſt ſubject to this diſeaſe. It is often owing to a hereditary diſpoſition. Where this is the caſe, it attacks perſons more early in life than when it is accidental. Men are more liable to it than women, eſpecially thoſe of a ſanguine plethoric habit, or of a melancholy diſpoſition.

THE piles may be occaſioned by an exceſs of blood, by ſtrong aloetic purges, high-ſeaſoned food, drinking great quantities of ſweet wines, the neglect of bleeding, or other cuſtomary evacuations, much riding, great coſtiveneſs, or any thing that occaſions hard or difficult ſtools. Anger, grief, and other violent paſſions, will likewiſe occaſion the piles. I have often known them brought on by cold, eſpecially about the *anus*. A pair of thin breeches will occaſion the diſorder in a perſon who is ſubject to it, and ſometimes even in thoſe who never had it before. Pregnant women are often afflicted with the piles.

A FLUX

A FLUX of blood from the *anus* is not always to be reckoned a diſeaſe. It is even more ſalutary than bleeding at the noſe, and often prevents or carries off diſeaſes. It is peculiarly beneficial in the gout, rheumatiſm, aſthma, and hypochondriacal complaints, and often proves critical in colics, and inflammatory fevers.

IN the treatment of this diſeaſe regard muſt be had to the patient's habit of body, his age, ſtrength, and manner of living. A diſcharge which might be exceſſive and prove hurtful to one, may be very moderate, and even ſalutary to another. That only is to be eſteemed dangerous which continues too long, and is in ſuch quantity, as to waſte the patient's ſtrength, hurt the digeſtion, nutrition, and other functions neceſſary to life.

WHEN this is the caſe, the diſcharge muſt be checked by a proper regimen, and aſtringent medicines. The DIET muſt be cool but nouriſhing, conſiſting chiefly of bread, milk, cooling vegetables and broths. The DRINK may be chalybeate water, orange whey, decoctions or infuſions of the aſtringent and mucilaginous plants, as the tormentil root, biſtort, the marſh-mallow roots, *&c.*

OLD conſerve of red roſes is a very good medicine in this caſe. It may be mixed with new milk, and taken in the quantity of an ounce three or four times a-day. This medicine is in no great

great repute, owing to its being ſeldom taken in ſuch quantity as to produce any effects; but when taken as here directed, and duly perſiſted in, I have known it perform very extraordinary cures in violent hæmorrhages, eſpecially when aſſiſted by the tincture of roſes; a tea-cupful of which may be taken about an hour after every doſe of the conſerve.

The Peruvian bark is likewiſe proper in this caſe, both as a ſtrengthener and aſtringent. It may be taken in red wine, ſharpened with the ſpirit of vitriol.

The bleeding piles are ſometimes periodical, and return regularly once a month, or once in three weeks. In this caſe they are always to be conſidered as a ſalutary diſcharge, and by no means to be ſtopped. Some have intirely ruined their health by ſtopping a periodical diſcharge of blood, from the hæmorrhoidal veins.

In the *blind piles* bleeding is generally of uſe. The diet muſt be light and thin, and the drink cool and diluting. It is likewiſe neceſſary that the belly be kept gently open. This may be done by ſmall doſes of the flowers of brimſtone and cream of tartar. Theſe may be mixed in equal quantities, and a tea-ſpoonful taken two or three times a-day, or as often as is neceſſary to keep the belly eaſy. Or an ounce of the flowers of brimſtone and half an ounce of purified nitre may be mixed with three or four ounces of the lenitive electuary,

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and a tea-ſpoonful of it taken three or four times a-day.

EMOLLIENT clyſters are here likewiſe beneficial; but there is ſometimes ſuch an aſtriction of the *anus*, that they cannot be thrown up. In this caſe I have known a vomit have an exceeding good effect.

WHEN the piles are exceeding painful and ſwelled, but diſcharge nothing, the patient muſt ſit over the ſteams of warm water. He may likewiſe apply a linen-cloth dipped in warm ſpirits of wine to the part, or poultices made of bread and milk, or of leeks fried with butter. If theſe do not produce a diſcharge, and the piles appear large, leeches muſt be applied as near them as poſſible, or, if they will fix upon the piles themſelves, ſo much the better. When leeches will not fix, the piles may be opened with a lancet. The operation is very eaſy, and is attended with no danger.

VARIOUS ointments, and other external applications, are recommended in the piles; but I do not remember ever to have ſeen any effects from theſe worth mentioning. Their principal uſe is to keep the part moiſt, which may be done as well by a ſoft poultice, or an emollient cataplaſm. When the pain however is very great, a liniment made of two ounces of emollient ointment, and half an ounce of liquid laudanum, beat up with the yolk of an egg, may be applied.

SPITTING

SPITTING OF BLOOD.

We mean here to treat of that diſcharge of blood from the lungs only which commonly goes by the name of an *hæmoptoe*, or *ſpitting of blood*. Perſons of a ſlender make, and a lax fibre, who have long necks and ſtrait breaſts, are moſt liable to this diſeaſe. It is moſt common in the ſpring, and generally attacks people before they arrive at the prime or middle period of life. It is a common obſervation, that thoſe who have been ſubject to bleeding at the noſe when young, are afterwards moſt liable to an hæmoptoe.

CAUSES.——An hæmoptoe may proceed from exceſs of blood, from a peculiar weakneſs of the lungs, or a bad conformation of the breaſt. It is often occaſioned by exceſſive drinking, running, wreſtling, ſinging, or ſpeaking aloud. Such as have weak lungs ought to avoid all violent exertions of that organ, as they value life. They ſhould likewiſe guard againſt violent paſſions, exceſſive drinking, and every thing that occaſions a rapid circulation of the blood.

This diſeaſe may likewiſe proceed from wounds of the lungs. Theſe may either be received from without, or they may be occaſioned by hard bodies getting into the wind-pipe, and ſo falling down upon the lungs, and hurting that tender organ. The obſtruction of any cuſtomary evacuation may occaſion a ſpitting of blood; as the neglect of bleeding

bleeding or purging at the uſual ſeaſons, the ſtoppage of the bleeding piles in men, or the menſes in women, &c. It may likewiſe proceed from a polypus, ſchirrous concretions, or any thing that obſtructs the circulation of the blood in the lungs. It is often the effect of a long and violent cough; in which caſe it is generally the forerunner of a conſumption. A violent degree of cold ſuddenly applied to the external parts of the body will occaſion an hæmoptoe. It may likewiſe be occaſioned by breathing air which is too much rarified to be able properly to expand the lungs. This is often the caſe with thoſe who work in hot places, as furnaces, glaſs-houſes, &c. It may likewiſe happen to ſuch as aſcend to the top of very high mountains, as the peak of Teneriff, &c.

SPITTING of blood is not always to be conſidered as a primary diſeaſe. It is often only a ſymptom, and in ſome caſes not an unfavourable one. This is the caſe in pleuriſies, peripneumonies, and ſundry other fevers. In a dropſy, ſcurvy, or conſumption, it is a bad ſymptom, and ſhews that the lungs are ulcerated.

SYMPTOMS.——Spitting of blood is generally preceded by a ſenſe of weight, and oppreſſion of the breaſt, a dry tickling cough, hoarſeneſs, and a difficulty of breathing. Sometimes it is uſhered in with ſhivering, coldneſs of the extremities, coſtiveneſs, great laſſitude, flatulence, pains of the back and loins, &c. As theſe ſhew a general ſtricture upon the veſſels, and a tendency of

the blood to inflammation, they are commonly the forerunners of a very copious diſcharge. The above ſymptoms do not attend a diſcharge of blood from the gums or fauces, by which means theſe may always be diſtinguiſhed from an hæmoptoe. Sometimes the blood that is ſpit up is thin, and of a florid red colour; and at other times it is thick, and of a dark or blackiſh colour: nothing however can be inferred from this circumſtance, but that the blood has lain a longer or ſhorter time in the breaſt before it was diſcharged.

SPITTING of blood, in a ſtrong healthy perſon, of a ſound conſtitution, is not very dangerous; but when it attacks the tender and delicate, or perſons of a weak lax fibre, it is with difficulty removed. When it proceeds from a ſchirrus or polypus of the lungs, it is bad. The danger is greater when the diſcharge proceeds from the rupture of a large veſſel than of a ſmall one. When the extravaſated blood is not ſpit up, but lodges in the breaſt, it corrupts, and greatly increaſes the danger. When the blood proceeds from an ulcer in the lungs, it is generally fatal.

REGIMEN.——The patient ought to be kept cool and eaſy. Every thing that heats the body, or quickens the circulation, increaſes the danger. The mind ought likewiſe to be ſoothed, and every occaſion of exciting the paſſions avoided. The diet ſhould be ſoft, cooling, and ſlender; as rice boiled with milk, ſmall broths, barley-gruels, panado,

panado, &c. The diet, in this caſe, can ſcarce be too low. Even water-gruel is ſufficient to ſupport the patient for ſome days. All ſtrong liquors muſt be avoided. The patient may drink milk and water, barley-water, whey, butter-milk, and ſuch like. Every thing however ſhould be drank cold, and in ſmall quantities at a time. He ſhould obſerve the ſtricteſt ſilence, or at leaſt ſpeak with a very low voice.

MEDICINE.—This, like the other involuntary diſcharges of blood, ought not to be ſuddenly ſtopped by aſtringent medicines. More miſchief is often done by theſe than if it were ſuffered to go on. It may however proceed ſo far as to weaken the patient, and even endanger his life, in which caſe proper means muſt be uſed for reſtraining it.

The belly ſhould be kept gently open by laxative diet; as roaſted apples, ſtewed prunes, &c. If theſe ſhould not have the effect, a tea-ſpoonful of the lenitive electuary may be taken twice or thrice a-day, as is found neceſſary. If the bleeding proves violent, ligatures may be applied to the extremities, as directed for the bleeding at the noſe.

If the patient be hot or feveriſh, bleeding and ſmall doſes of nitre will be of uſe; a ſcruple or half a dram of nitre may be taken in a cup of his ordinary drink twice or thrice a-day. His drink may likewiſe be ſharpened with acids, as juice of lemon, or a few drops of the ſpirit of vitriol; or he

he may take frequently a cup of the tincture of roſes.

Bathing the feet and legs in lukewarm water, has likewiſe a very good effect in this diſeaſe. Opiates too are ſometimes beneficial; but theſe muſt be adminiſtered with caution. Ten or twelve drops of laudanum may be given in a cup of barley-water twice a-day, and continued for ſome time, provided they be found beneficial.

The conſerve of roſes is likewiſe a very good medicine in this caſe, provided it be taken in ſufficient quantity, and long enough perſiſted in. It may be taken to the quantity of three or four ounces a-day; and, if the patient be troubled with a cough, it ſhould be made into an electuary with balſamic ſyrup, and a little of the ſyrup of poppies.

If ſtronger aſtringents be neceſſary, fifteen or twenty drops of the acid elixir of vitriol may be given in a glaſs of water, three or four times a-day.

Thoſe who are ſubject to frequent returns of this diſeaſe, ſhould avoid all exceſs. Their diet ſhould be light and cool, conſiſting chiefly of milk and vegetables. Above all, let them beware of vigorous efforts of the body, and violent agitations of the mind.

VOMITING OF BLOOD.

THIS is not ſo common as the other diſcharges of blood which have already been mentioned; but it is very dangerous, and requires particular attention.

VOMITING of blood is generally preceded by pains in the ſtomach, ſickneſs and nauſea, and is accompanied with great anxiety, and frequent fainting fits.

THIS diſeaſe is ſometimes periodical; in which caſe it is leſs dangerous. It often proceeds from an obſtruction of the menſes in women; and ſometimes from the ſtopping of the hæmorrhoidal flux in men. It may be occaſioned by any thing that greatly ſtimulates or wounds the ſtomach, as ſtrong vomits or purges, acrid poiſons, ſharp or hard ſubſtances taken into the ſtomach, &c. It is often the effect of obſtructions in the liver, the ſpleen, or ſome of the other viſcera. It may likewiſe proceed from external violence, as blows or bruiſes, or from any of the cauſes which produce inflammation.

A GREAT part of the danger in this diſeaſe ariſes from the extravaſated blood lodging in the bowels, and becoming putrid, by which means a dyſentery or putrid fever may be occaſioned. The beſt way of preventing this, is to keep the belly gently open, by frequently exhibiting emollient

clyſters. Purges muſt not be given till the diſcharge is ſtopt, otherwiſe they will irritate the ſtomach, and increaſe the diſorder. All the food and drink muſt be of a mild cooling nature, and taken in ſmall quantities. Even drinking cold water has ſometimes proved a remedy. When there are ſigns of an inflammation, bleeding may be neceſſary; but the patient's weakneſs will ſeldom permit it. Aſtringents can ſeldom be uſed, as they ſtimulate the ſtomach, and of courſe increaſe the diſeaſe. Opiates may be of uſe; but they muſt be given in very ſmall doſes, as four or five drops of liquid laudanum twice or thrice a-day. After the diſcharge is over, as the patient is generally troubled with gripes, occaſioned by the acrimony of the blood lodged in the inteſtines, gentle purges will be neceſſary.

OF BLOODY URINE.

This is a diſcharge of blood from the veſſels of the kidneys or bladder, occaſioned by their being either enlarged, broken, or eroded. It is more or leſs dangerous according to the different circumſtances which attend it.

When pure blood is voided ſuddenly without interruption and without pain, it proceeds from the kidneys; but if the blood be in ſmall quantity, of a dark colour, and emitted with heat and

pain about the bottom of the belly, it proceeds from the bladder. When bloody urine is occaſioned by a rough ſtone deſcending from the kidneys to the bladder, which wounds the *ureters*, it is attended with a ſharp pain in the back and difficulty of making water. If the coats of the bladder are hurt by a ſtone, and bloody urine follows, it is attended with the moſt acute pain, and a previous ſtoppage of urine.

Bloody urine may likewiſe be occaſioned by falls, blows, the lifting or carrying of heavy burdens, hard riding, or any violent motion. It may alſo proceed from ulcers or eroſions of the bladder, from a ſtone lodged in the kidneys, or from violent purges, or ſharp diuretic medicines, eſpecially cantharides.

Bloody urine is always attended with ſome degree of danger; but it is peculiarly ſo when mixed with purulent matter, as this ſhews an ulcer ſomewhere in the urinary paſſages. Sometimes this diſcharge proceeds from exceſs of blood, in which caſe it is rather to be conſidered as a ſalutary evacuation than a diſeaſe. If the diſcharge however be very great, it may waſte the patient's ſtrength, and occaſion an ill habit of body, a dropſy, or a conſumption, &c.

The treatment of this diſorder muſt be varied according to the different cauſes from which it proceeds.

When

When it is owing to a ſtone in the bladder, the cure depends upon an operation; a deſcription of which would be foreign to our purpoſe.

If it be attended with a plethora, and ſymptoms of inflammation, bleeding will be neceſſary. The belly muſt likewiſe be kept open by emollient clyſters, or cooling purgative medicines; as cryſtals of tartar, rhubarb, manna, or ſmall doſes of lenitive electuary.

When bloody urine proceeds from a diſſolved ſtate of the blood, it is commonly the ſymptom of ſome malignant diſeaſe; as the ſmall-pox, a putrid fever, or the like. In this caſe the patient's life depends on the liberal uſe of the peruvian bark and acids, as has already been ſhewn.

When there is reaſon to ſuſpect an ulcer in the kidneys or bladder, the patient's diet muſt be cool, and his drink of a ſoft, healing, balſamic quality, as decoctions of marſh-mallow roots with liquorice, ſolutions of gum-arabic, &c. Three ounces of marſh-mallow roots, and half an ounce of liquorice, may be boiled in two Engliſh quarts of water to one; two ounces of gum-arabic, and half an ounce of purified nitre, may be diſſolved in the ſtrained liquor, and a tea-cupful of it taken four or five times a-day.

The early uſe of aſtringents in this diſeaſe has often bad conſequences. When the flux is ſtopped too ſoon, the grumous blood, by being confined in the veſſels, may produce inflammations,

abſceſs, and ulcers. If however the caſe be urgent, or the patient ſeems to ſuffer from the loſs of blood, gentle aſtringents may be neceſſary. In this caſe the patient may take three or four ounces of * lime-water, with half an ounce of the tincture of peruvian bark three times a-day.

Of the DYSENTERY, or BLOODY-FLUX.

This diſeaſe prevails in the ſpring and autumn. It is very infectious, and often epidemical. Perſons are moſt liable to it who are much expoſed to the night-air, or who live in places where the air is confined and unwholeſome. Hence it often proves fatal in camps, on ſhipboard, in jails, hoſpitals, and ſuch like places.

CAUSES.——This diſeaſe may be occaſioned by any thing that obſtructs the perſpiration, or renders the humors putrid; as damp beds, wet clothes, unwholeſome diet, air, &c. But it is moſt frequently communicated by infection. This ought to make people extremely cautious in going near ſuch perſons as labour under the diſeaſe. Even the ſmell of the patient's excrements has been known to communicate the infection.

* Lime-water is prepared by pouring two Engliſh gallons of water gradually upon a pound of quick-lime; when the ebullition is over, let the whole ſtand to ſettle for two days, then filter the liquor through paper. It ſhould be kept in veſſels cloſely ſtopped.

SYMP-

SYMPTOMS.——It is known by a flux of the belly attended with violent pain of the bowels, a conſtant inclination to go to ſtool, and generally leſs or more blood in the ſtools. It begins, like other fevers, with chillneſs, loſs of ſtrength, a quick pulſe, great thirſt, and an inclination to vomit. The ſtools are at firſt greaſy or frothy, afterwards they are ſtreaked with blood, and, at laſt, have frequently the appearance of pure blood, mixed with ſmall filaments reſembling bits of ſkin. Sometimes, however, there is no blood in the ſtools through the whole courſe of the diſeaſe. When the patient goes to ſtool, he feels a bearing down, as if the whole bowels were falling out, and ſometimes a part of the inteſtine is actually protruded, which proves exceeding troubleſome, eſpecially in children.

THIS diſeaſe may be diſtinguiſhed from a diarrhœa or looſeneſs, by the acute pain of the bowels, and the blood which generally appears in the ſtools. It may be diſtinguiſhed from the *cholera morbus* by its not being attended with ſuch violent and frequent fits of vomiting, &c.

WHEN the dyſentery attacks the old, the delicate, or ſuch as have been waſted by ſcorbutic, conſumptive, or other lingering diſeaſes, it generally proves fatal. Vomiting and hiccuping are bad ſigns, as they ſhew an inflammation of the ſtomach. When the ſtools have an exceeding diſagreeable ſmell, are green, black, or mixed with

ſmall glandular ſubſtances, or bits of ſkin, the danger is great. It is an unfavourable ſymptom when clyſters are immediately returned; but ſtill more ſo, when the paſſage is ſo obſtinately ſhut, that they cannot be injected. A weak pulſe, coldneſs of the extremities, with difficulty of ſwallowing, and convulſions, are ſigns of approaching death.

REGIMEN.——Nothing is of more importance in this diſeaſe than cleanlineſs. It contributes greatly to the recovery of the patient, and no leſs to the ſafety of ſuch as attend him. In all contagious diſeaſes the danger is increaſed, and the infection ſpread, by the neglect of cleanlineſs; but in none more than this. Every thing about the patient ſhould be frequently changed. The excrements ſhould never be ſuffered to continue in his chamber, but removed immediately, and buried under ground. A conſtant ſtream of freſh air ſhould be admitted into the chamber; and it ought frequently to be ſprinkled with vinegar, juice of lemon, or ſome other ſtrong acid.

The patient muſt not be diſcouraged, but his ſpirits kept up in hopes of a cure. Nothing tends more to render any putrid diſeaſe mortal, than the fears and apprehenſions of the ſick. All diſeaſes of this nature have a tendency to ſink and depreſs the ſpirits, and when that is increaſed by fears and alarms from thoſe whom the patient believes to be perſons of ſkill, 't cannot fail to have the worſt effects.

A FLANNEL

A FLANNEL waiſtcoat worn next the ſkin has often a very good effect in a dyſentery. This promotes the perſpiration without over-heating the body. Great caution however is neceſſary in leaving it off. I have often known a dyſentery brought on by imprudently throwing off a flannel waiſtcoat before the ſeaſon was ſufficiently warm. For whatever purpoſe this piece of dreſs is worn, it ſhould never be left off but in a warm ſeaſon.

IN this diſeaſe the greateſt attention muſt be paid to the patient's diet. Fleſh, fiſh, and every thing that has a tendency to turn putrid or rancid on the ſtomach, muſt be abſtained from. Apples boiled in milk, water-pap, and plain light pudding, with broth made of the gelatinous parts of animals, may be eat. Gelatinous broth not only anſwers the purpoſe of food, but likewiſe of medicine. I have often known dyſenteries cured by it, after pompous medicines had proved ineffectual *.

ANOTHER

* THE manner of making this broth is, to take a ſheep's head and feet with the ſkin upon them, and to burn the wool off with a hot iron. Afterwards to boil them till the broth is quite a jelly. A little cinnamon or mace may be added to give the broth an agreeable flavour, and the patient may take a little of it warm with toaſted bread, three or four times a-day. A clyſter of it may likewiſe be given twice a-day. Such as cannot uſe the broth made in this way, may have the head and feet ſkinned; but we have reaſon to believe that this hurts the medicine. It is not our buſineſs here to reaſon upon the nature and qualities of medicines, otherwiſe this might be ſhewn to poſſeſs virtues every way ſuited to the cure of a dyſentery

ANOTHER kind of food very proper in the dyſentery, which may be uſed by ſuch as cannot take the broth mentioned above, is made by boiling a few handfuls of fine flour, tied in a cloth, for ſix or ſeven hours, till it becomes as hard as ſtarch. Two or three table-ſpoonfuls of this may be grated down, and boiled in ſuch a quantity of new milk and water as to be of the thickneſs of pap. This may be ſweetened to the patient's taſte, and taken for his ordinary food *.

THE patient may likewiſe be allowed to eat freely of moſt kinds of good ripe fruit; as apples, grapes, currant-berries, ſtrawberries, &c. Theſe may either be eat raw or boiled, with or without

dyſentery which does not proceed from a putrid ſtate of the humours. One thing we know, which is preferable to all reaſoning, that whole families have often been cured by it, after they had uſed many other medicines in vain. It will however be proper that the patient take a vomit, and a doſe or two of rhubarb, before he begins to uſe the broth. It will likewiſe be neceſſary to continue the uſe of it for a conſiderable time, and to make it the principal food.

* The learned Dr. Rutherford, late profeſſor of medicine in the univerſity of Edinburgh, uſed to mention this medicine in his public lectures with great encomiums. He directed it to be made by tying three or four handfuls of the fineſt flour, as tight as poſſible, in a linen rag, afterwards to dip it frequently in water, and to dridge the outſide with flour till a cake or cruſt was formed around it, which prevents the water from ſoaking into it while boiling. It is then to be boiled till it becomes a hard dry maſs, as directed above. This, when mixed with milk and water, will not only anſwer the purpoſe of food, but may likewiſe be given in clyſters.

milk,

milk, as the patient chuſes. The prejudice againſt fruit in this diſeaſe is ſo great, that many believe it to be the common cauſe of dyſenteries. This however is an egregious miſtake. Both reaſon and experience ſhew, that good fruit is one of the beſt medicines, both for the prevention and cure of the moſt dangerous kind of dyſentery. In a dyſentery ariſing from a putrid ſtate of the humours, fruit is in every reſpect calculated to counteract that tendency to putrefaction, from whence all the danger proceeds. The patient in ſuch a caſe ought therefore to be allowed to eat as much fruit as he pleaſes, provided it be good*.

THE moſt proper drink in this diſorder is whey. The dyſentery has often been cured by the uſe of clear whey alone. It may be taken both for drink,

* I lately ſaw a young man who had been ſeized with a dyſentery in North America. Many things had been tried there for his relief, but to no purpoſe. At length, tired out with diſappointments from medicine, and reduced to ſkin and bone, he came over to Britain, rather with a view to die among his relations than with any hopes of a cure. After taking ſundry medicines here with no better ſucceſs than abroad, I adviſed him to leave off the uſe of drugs, and to truſt entirely to a diet of milk and fruits, with gentle exerciſe. Strawberries was the only fruit he could procure at that ſeaſon. Theſe he eat with milk twice, and ſometimes thrice a-day. The conſequence was, that in a ſhort time his ſtools were reduced from upwards of twenty in a day, to three or four, and ſometimes not ſo many. He uſed the other fruits as they came in, and was, in a few weeks, ſo well as to leave that part of the country where I was with a view to return to America.

and

and in form of clyſter. When whey cannot be had, barley-water ſharpened with cream of tartar may be drank, or a decoction of barley and tamarinds; two ounces of the former and one of the latter may be boiled in two Engliſh quarts of water to one. Warm water, water-gruel, or water wherein hot iron has been frequently quenched, are all very proper, and may be drank in turns. Camomile tea, if the ſtomach will bear it, is an exceeding proper drink. It both ſtrengthens the ſtomach, and by its antiſeptic quality tends to prevent a mortification of the bowels.

MEDICINE.——At the beginning of this diſeaſe it is always neceſſary to cleanſe the firſt paſſages. For this purpoſe a vomit of ipecacuanha muſt be given, and wrought off with weak camomile-tea. Strong vomits are ſeldom neceſſary here. A ſcruple, or at moſt half a dram of ipecacuanha, is generally ſufficient for an adult, and ſometimes a very few grains will ſuffice. The day after the vomit, half a dram, or two ſcruples of rhubarb, muſt be taken. This doſe may be repeated every other day for two or three times. Afterwards ſmall doſes of ipecacuanha may be taken for ſome time. Two or three grains of the powder may be mixed in a table-ſpoonful of the ſyrup of poppies, and taken three times a-day.

THESE evacuations, and the regimen preſcribed above, will often be ſufficient to effect a cure. Should

Should it however happen otherwiſe, the following aſtringent medicines may be uſed.

A CLYSTER of ſtarch or fat mutton-broth, with twenty or thirty drops of liquid laudanum in it, may be adminiſtered twice a-day. At the ſame time an ounce of gum-arabic, and half an ounce of gum-tragacanth, may be diſſolved in an Engliſh pint of barley-water, over a ſlow fire, and a table-ſpoonful of it taken every hour.

IF theſe have not the deſired effect, the patient may take, four times a-day, about the bulk of a nutmeg of the *Japonic confection*, drinking after it a tea-cupful of the decoction of logwood*.

PERSONS who have been cured of this diſeaſe are very liable to ſuffer a relapſe; to prevent which, great circumſpection with reſpect to diet is neceſſary. The patient muſt abſtain from all fermented liquors, except now and then a glaſs of good wine; but he muſt drink no kind of malt-liquor. He muſt likewiſe abſtain from animal food, as fiſh and fleſh, and muſt live principally upon milk and vegetables.

GENTLE exerciſe and wholeſome air are likewiſe of importance. The patient ſhould go to the

* The decoction of logwood is made by boiling three or four ounces of the ſhavings of that wood in two Engliſh quarts of water till one half be conſumed; adding towards the end two drams of cinnamon bark. This decoction gives the ſtools a reddiſh colour; but the patient needs not be alarmed at that appearance.

country as ſoon as his ſtrength will permit, and ſhould take exerciſe daily on horſeback, or in a carriage. He may likewiſe uſe bitters infuſed in wine or brandy, and may drink twice a-day a gill of lime-water mixed with an equal quantity of new milk.

When dyſenteries prevail, we would recommend a ſtrict attention to cleanlineſs, a ſpare uſe of animal food, and the free uſe of ſound ripe fruits, and other vegetables. The night-air is to be carefully avoided, and all communication with the ſick. Bad ſmells are likewiſe to be ſhunned, eſpecially thoſe which ariſe from putrid animal ſubſtances. The office-houſes where the ſick go are carefully to be avoided.

When the firſt ſymptoms of the dyſentery appear, the patient ought immediately to take a vomit, to go to bed, and drink plentifully of weak warm liquor, to promote a ſweat. This, with a doſe or two of rhubarb at the beginning, would often carry off the diſeaſe. In countries where dyſenteries prevail, we would adviſe ſuch as are liable to them, to take either a vomit or a doſe of phyſic every ſpring and autumn, as a preventive.

There are ſundry other fluxes of the belly, as the LIENTERY and COELIAC PASSION, which, though leſs dangerous than the dyſentery, yet merit conſideration. Theſe diſeaſes generally proceed from a relaxed ſtate of the ſtomach and inteſtines,

inteſtines, which is ſometimes ſo great, that the food paſſes through them without almoſt any ſenſible alteration; and the patient dies merely from the want of nouriſhment.

When the lientery or cœliac paſſion ſucceed a dyſentery, they often prove fatal. They are always dangerous in old age, eſpecially when the conſtitution has been broken by exceſs or acute diſeaſes. If the ſtools be very frequent, and quite crude, the thirſt great, with little urine, the mouth ulcerated, and the face marked with ſpots of different colours, the danger is very great.

The treatment of the patient is in general the ſame as in the dyſentery. In all obſtinate fluxes of the belly, the cure muſt be attempted, by firſt cleaning the ſtomach and bowels with gentle vomits and purges. Afterwards ſuch a diet as has a tendency to brace and ſtrengthen the bowels, with opiates and aſtringent medicines, will generally perfect the cure.

The ſame obſervation holds with reſpect to a TENESMUS, or frequent deſire of going to ſtool. This diſeaſe reſembles the dyſentery ſo much, both in its ſymptoms and method of cure, that we think it needleſs to inſiſt upon it.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXXIII.

OF THE HEAD-ACH.

ACHES and pains proceed from very different cauſes, and may affect any part of the body; but we ſhall point out thoſe only which occur moſt frequently, and are attended with the greateſt danger.

When the head-ach is ſlight, and affects a particular part of the head only, it is called *cephalalgia*; when the whole head is affected *cephalæa*; and when on one ſide only, *hemicrania*. A fixed pain in the forehead, which may be covered with the end of the thumb, is called the *clavis hyſtericus*.

There are alſo other diſtinctions. Sometimes the pain is internal, ſometimes external; ſometimes it is an original diſeaſe, and at other times only ſymptomatic. When the head-ach proceeds from a hot bilious habit, the pain is very acute and throbbing, with a conſiderable heat of the part affected. When from a cold phlegmatic habit, the patient complains of a dull heavy pain, and has a ſenſe of coldneſs in the part. This kind of head-ach is ſometimes attended with a degree of ſtupidity or folly.

WHATEVER obſtructs the free circulation of the blood through the veſſels of the head, may occaſion a head-ach. In perſons of a full habit, who abound with blood, or other humours, the head-ach often proceeds from the ſuppreſſion of cuſtomary evacuations; as bleeding at the noſe, ſweating of the feet, *&c.* It may likewiſe proceed from any cauſe that determines a greater flux of blood towards the head; as coldneſs of the extremities, hanging of the head, *&c.* Whatever prevents the return of the blood from the head will likewiſe occaſion a head-ach; as looking long obliquely at any object, wearing any thing tight about the neck, *&c.*

WHEN a head-ach proceeds from the ſtoppage of a running at the noſe, there is a heavy, obtuſe, preſſing pain in the fore-part of the head, in which there ſeems to be ſuch a weight, that the patient can ſcarce hold it up. When it is occaſioned by the cauſtic matter of the venereal diſeaſe, it generally affects the ſkull, and often produces a *caries* of the bones.

SOMETIMES the head-ach proceeds from the repulſion, or retroceſſion of the gout, the eryſipelas, the ſmall-pox, meaſles, itch, or other eruptive diſeaſes. What is called a *hemicrania* generally proceeds from crudities or indigeſtion. Inanition, or emptineſs, will alſo occaſion head-achs. I have often ſeen inſtances of this in nurſes

who gave ſuck too long, or who did not take a ſufficient quantity of ſolid food.

THERE is likewiſe a moſt violent, fixed, conſtant, and almoſt intolerable head-ach, which occaſions great debility both of body and mind, prevents ſleep, deſtroys the appetite, cauſes a *vertigo*, dimneſs of ſight, a noiſe in the ears, convulſions, epileptic fits, and ſometimes vomiting, coſtiveneſs, coldneſs of the extremities, *&c.*

THE head-ach is often ſymptomatic in continual and intermitting fevers, eſpecially quartans. It is likewiſe a very common ſymptom in hyſteric and hypochondriac complaints.

WHEN a head-ach attends an acute fever, with pale urine, it is an unfavourable ſymptom. In exceſſive head-achs, coldneſs of the extremities is a bad ſign. When the diſeaſe continues long, and is very violent, it often terminates in blindneſs, an apoplexy, deafneſs, a *vertigo*, the palſy, epilepſy, *&c.*

IN this diſeaſe the cool regimen in general is to be obſerved. The diet ought to conſiſt of ſuch emollient ſubſtances as will correct the acrimony of the humours, and keep the belly open; as apples boiled in milk, ſpinage, turnips, and ſuch like. The drink ought to be diluting; as barley-water, infuſions of mild mucilaginous vegetables, decoctions of the ſudorific woods, *&c.* The feet and legs ought to be kept warm, and frequently bathed

bathed in lukewarm water; the head ſhould be ſhaved, and bathed with water and vinegar. The patient ought, as much as poſſible, to keep in an erect poſture, and not to lie with his head too low.

When the head-ach is owing to exceſs of blood, or an hot bilious conſtitution, bleeding is neceſſary. The patient may be bled in the jugular vein, and the operation repeated if there be occaſion. Cupping alſo, or the application of leeches to the temples, and behind the ears, will be of ſervice. Afterwards a bliſtering plaſter may be applied to the neck, behind the ears, or to any part of the head that is moſt affected. In ſome caſes it will be proper to bliſter the whole head. In perſons of a groſs habit, iſſues or perpetual bliſters will be of ſervice. The belly ought likewiſe to be kept open by gentle laxatives.

But when the head-ach proceeds from a copious vitiated *ſerum* ſtagnating in the membranes, either within or without the ſkull, with a dull, heavy, continual pain, which will neither yield to bleeding nor gentle laxatives, then more powerful purgatives are neceſſary, as pills made of aloes, reſin of jalap, or the like. It will alſo be neceſſary in this caſe to bliſter the whole head, and to keep the back part of the neck open for a conſiderable time by a perpetual bliſter.

When the head-ach is occaſioned by a ſtoppage of a running at the noſe, the patient ſhould fre-

quently ſmell to a bottle of volatile ſalts; he may likewiſe take ſnuff; or any thing that will irritate the noſe, ſo as to promote a diſcharge from it; as the herb maſtich, ground-ivy, *&c.*

A *hemicrania*, eſpecially a periodical one, is generally owing to a foulneſs of the ſtomach, for which gentle vomits muſt be adminiſtered, as alſo purges of rhubarb. After the bowels have been ſufficiently cleared, chalybeate waters, and ſuch bitters as ſtrengthen the ſtomach, will be neceſſary.

When the head-ach ariſes from a vitiated ſtate of the humours, as in the ſcurvy and venereal diſeaſe, the patient, after proper evacuations, muſt drink freely of the decoction of woods, or the decoction of ſarſaparilla with raiſins and liquorice*. Theſe promote perſpiration, ſweeten the humours, and, if duly perſiſted in, will produce very happy effects. When a collection of matter is felt under the ſkin, it muſt be diſcharged by an inciſion, otherwiſe it will render the bone carious.

When the head-ach is ſo intolerable as to endanger the patient's life, or is attended with continual watching, delirium, *&c.* recourſe muſt be had to opiates. Theſe, after proper evacuation by clyſters, or mild purgatives, may be applied both externally and internally. The affected part

* This is made by boiling three ounces of freſh ſarſaparilla, an ounce of raiſins, and half an ounce of liquorice, in three Engliſh quarts of water to one. The liquor muſt be ſtrained, and an Engliſh pint of it drank daily.

may

may be rubbed with Bate's anodyne balſam, or a cloth dipped in it may be applied to the part. The patient may, at the ſame time, take twenty drops of laudanum, in a cup of valerian or penny-royal tea, twice or thrice a-day. This is only to be done in caſe of extreme pain. Proper evacuations ought always to accompany and follow the uſe of opiates.

When the patient cannot bear the loſs of blood, his feet ought frequently to be bathed in lukewarm water, and well rubbed with a coarſe cloth. Cataplaſms with muſtard or horſeradiſh ought likewiſe to be applied to them. This courſe is peculiarly neceſſary when the pain proceeds from a gouty humour affecting the head.

When the head-ach is occaſioned by great heat, hard labour, or violent exerciſe of any kind, it may be allayed by cooling medicines; as the ſaline draughts with nitre, and the like.

OF THE TOOTH-ACH.

This diſeaſe is ſo well known, that it needs no deſcription. It has great affinity with the rheumatiſm, and often ſucceeds pains of the ſhoulders and other parts of the body.

It may proceed from obſtructed perſpiration, or any of the other cauſes of inflammation. I have often known the tooth-ach occaſioned by neglecting ſome part of the uſual coverings of the head,

by ſitting with the head bare near an open window, or expoſing it any how to a draught of cold air. Food or drink taken either too hot, or too cold, is very hurtful to the teeth. Great quantities of ſugar, or other ſweet-meats, are likewiſe hurtful. Nothing is more deſtructive to the teeth than cracking nuts, or chewing any kind of hard ſubſtances. Picking the teeth with pins, needles, or with any thing that may hurt the enamel with which they are covered, does great miſchief; as the tooth is ſure to be ſpoilt whenever the air gets into it. Pregnant women are very ſubject to the tooth-ach, eſpecially during the firſt three or four months of pregnancy. The tooth-ach often proceeds from ſcorbutic humours affecting the gums. In this caſe the teeth are ſometimes waſted, and fall out without any conſiderable degree of pain. The more immediate cauſe of the tooth-ach is a rotten or *carious* tooth.

In order to relieve the tooth-ach, we muſt firſt endeavour to draw off the humours from the part affected. This may be done by mild purgatives, bleeding, and bathing the feet frequently in warm water. The perſpiration ought likewiſe to be promoted, by drinking freely of weak wine-whey, or other diluting liquors, with ſmall doſes of nitre. Vomits too have often an exceeding good effect in the tooth-ach. It is ſeldom ſafe to adminiſter opiates, or any kind of heating medicines, or even to draw a tooth till proper evacuations have been

been premiſed, and theſe alone will often effect the cure.

Next to evacuations we would recommend fomenting the part with warm water, or decoctions of emollient vegetables. Bags filled with boiled camomile flowers, flowers of elder, or the like, may be applied to the part affected, with as great a degree of warmth as the patient can bear, and renewed as they grow cool. The patient may likewiſe receive the ſteams of warm water into his mouth, through an inverted funnel, or by holding his head over the mouth of a porringer filled with warm water, *&c.*

Gargles are likewiſe of uſe to make a diſcharge from the part. Rob of elder diſſolved in ſmall beer makes a very proper gargle, or an infuſion of ſage or mulberry leaves.

Such things as promote the diſcharge of ſaliva, or cauſe the patient to ſpit, are always proper. For this purpoſe bitter, hot, or pungent vegetables may be chewed; as gentian, calomus-aromaticus, or pellatory of Spain. Allen recommends the root of *yellow water flower-de-luce* in this caſe. This root may either be rubbed upon the tooth or a little of it chewed. Brookes ſays, he hardly ever knew it fail to eaſe the tooth-ach.

Many other herbs, roots, and ſeeds, are recommended for curing the tooth-ach; as the leaves or roots of millefoil or yarrow chewed, tobacco ſmoked or chewed, ſtaves acre, or the

ſeeds of muſtard chewed, *&c.* Theſe bitter, hot, and pungent things, by occaſioning a great flow of *ſaliva*, frequently give eaſe in the tooth-ach.

Opiates often relieve the tooth-ach. For this purpoſe a little cotton wet with laudanum may be held between the teeth; or a piece of ſticking plaſter, about the bigneſs of a ſixpence, with a bit of opium in the middle of it, of a ſize not to prevent the ſticking of the other, may be laid on the temporal artery, where the pulſation is moſt ſenſible. *De la Motte* affirms, that there are few caſes wherein this will not give relief. If there be a hollow tooth, a ſmall pill made of equal parts of camphire and opium, put into the hollow, is often beneficial. When this cannot be had, the hollow tooth may be filled with gum maſtich, wax, lead, or any ſubſtance that will ſtick in it, and keep out the external air.

Few applications give more relief in the tooth-ach than bliſtering plaſters. Theſe may be applied betwixt the ſhoulders, but they have the beſt effect when put behind the ears, and made ſo large as to cover a part of the lower-jaw.

After all, when a tooth is carious, it is often impoſſible to remove the pain, without extracting it; and, as a ſpoilt tooth never becomes ſound again, it is prudent to draw it ſoon, leſt it ſhould affect the reſt. Tooth-drawing, like bleeding, is very much practiſed by mechanics as well as perſons of the medical profeſſion. The operation

operation however is not without danger, and ought always to be performed with care. A perſon unacquainted with the ſtructure of the parts will be in danger of breaking the jaw-bone, or of drawing a ſound tooth inſtead of a rotten one.

When the tooth-ach returns periodically, and the pain chiefly affects the gums, it may be cured by the bark.

Some pretend to have found great benefit in the tooth-ach, from the application of an artificial magnet to the affected tooth. We ſhall not attempt to account for its mode of operation, but, if it be found to anſwer, though only in particular caſes, it certainly deſerves a trial, as it is attended with no expence, and cannot do any harm.

Persons who have returns of the tooth-ach at certain ſeaſons, as ſpring and autumn, might often prevent it by taking a doſe of phyſic at theſe times.

Keeping the teeth clean has no doubt a tendency to prevent the tooth-ach. The beſt method of doing this is to waſh them daily with ſalt and water, or with cold water alone. All bruſhing and ſcraping of the teeth is dangerous, and, unleſs it be performed with great care, does miſchief.

OF THE EAR-ACH.

This diſorder chiefly affects the membrane which lines the inner cavity of the ear called the *meatus auditorius*. It is often ſo violent as to occaſion great reſtleſſneſs and anxiety, and even delirium. Sometimes epileptic fits, and other convulſive diſorders, have been brought on by extreme pain in the ear.

The ear-ach may proceed from any of the cauſes which produce inflammation. It often proceeds from a ſudden ſuppreſſion of perſpiration, or from the head being expoſed to cold when covered with ſweat. It may alſo be occaſioned by worms, or other inſects getting into the ear, or being bred there; or from any hard body ſticking in the ear. Sometimes it proceeds from the tranſlation of morbific matter to the ear. This often happens in the decline of malignant fevers, and occaſions deafneſs, which is generally reckoned a favourable ſymptom.

When the ear-ach proceeds from inſects, or any hard body ſticking in the ear, every method muſt be taken to remove them as ſoon as poſſible. The membranes may be relaxed by dropping into the ear, oil of ſweet almonds, or olive oil. Afterwards the patient ſhould be made to ſneeze, by

taking ſnuff, or ſome ſtrong ſternutatory. If this ſhould not force out the body, it muſt be extracted by art. I have ſeen inſects, which had got into the ear, come out of their own accord upon pouring in oil, which is a thing they cannot bear.

When the pain of the ear proceeds from inflammation, it muſt be treated like other topical inflammations, by a cooling regimen and opening medicines. Bleeding at the beginning, either in the arm or jugular vein, or cupping in the neck, will be proper. The ear may likewiſe be fomented with ſteams of warm water, or flannel bags filled with boiled mallows and camomile flowers may be applied to it warm; or bladders filled with warm milk and water. An exceeding good method of fomenting the ear is to apply it cloſe to the mouth of a jug filled with warm water, or a ſtrong decoction of camomile flowers.

The patient's feet ſhould be frequently bathed in lukewarm water, and he ought to take ſmall doſes of nitre and rhubarb, *viz.* a ſcruple of the former, and ten grains of the latter three times a-day. His drink may be whey, or decoctions of barley and liquorice with figs or raiſins. The parts behind the ear ought frequently to be rubbed with camphorated oil, or a little of the volatile liniment.

When

When the inflammation cannot be diſcuſſed, a poultice of bread and milk, or roaſted onions, may be applied to the ear, and frequently renewed, till the abſceſs breaks, or can be opened. Afterwards the humours may be diverted from the part by gentle laxatives, bliſters, or iſſues; but the diſcharge muſt not be ſuddenly dried up by any external application.

PAIN OF THE STOMACH.

This may proceed from various cauſes; as indigeſtion; wind; the acrimony of the bile; ſharp, acrid, or poiſonous ſubſtances taken into the ſtomach, *&c.* It may likewiſe proceed from worms; the ſtoppage of cuſtomary evacuations; a tranſlation of gouty matter to the ſtomach; or the like.

Women in the decline of life are very liable to this diſeaſe, eſpecially ſuch as are afflicted with hyſteric complaints. It is likewiſe very common to hypochondriac men of a ſedentary and luxurious life. In ſuch perſons it often proves ſo extremely obſtinate as to baffle all the powers of medicine.

When the pain of the ſtomach is moſt violent after eating, there is reaſon to ſuſpect that it proceeds from ſome fault either in the digeſtion or the

food. In this caſe the patient ought to change his diet, till he finds what kind of food agrees beſt with his ſtomach, and ſhould continue chiefly to uſe that. If a change of diet does not remove the complaint, the patient may take a gentle vomit, and afterwards a doſe or two of rhubarb. He ought likewiſe to take an infuſion of camomile-flowers, or ſome other ſtomachic bitter either in wine or water. I have often known exerciſe remove this complaint, eſpecially ſailing, or a long journey on horſeback, or in a machine.

When a pain of the ſtomach proceeds from flatulency, the patient is conſtantly belching up wind, and feels an uneaſy diſtenſion of the ſtomach after meals. This is a moſt deplorable diſeaſe, and is ſeldom cured. In general, the patient ought to avoid all windy diet, and every thing that ſours on the ſtomach, as greens, roots, &c. This rule however admits of ſome exceptions. There are many inſtances of perſons very much troubled with wind, who received great benefit from eating parched peaſe, though that grain is generally ſuppoſed to be of a windy nature *. This complaint may likewiſe be greatly relieved by exerciſe, eſpecially dig-

* Theſe are prepared by ſteeping or ſoaking peaſe in water, and afterwards drying them in a pot or kiln till they be quite hard. They may be uſed at pleaſure.

ging,

ging †, walking, or riding. I have found the elixir of vitriol anſwer very well in flatulencies. Fifteen or twenty drops of it may be taken in a glaſs of wine, or a cup of camomile-tea, twice or thrice a-day.

When a pain of the ſtomach is occaſioned by the ſwallowing of acrid or poiſonous ſubſtances, they muſt be diſcharged by vomit; this may be excited by butter, oils, or other ſoft things, which ſheath and defend the ſtomach from the acrimony of its contents.

When pain of the ſtomach proceeds from a tranſlation of gouty matter, warm cordials are neceſſary, as generous wines, French brandy, *&c.* Some have drank a whole bottle of brandy or rum, in this caſe, in a few hours, without being in the leaſt intoxicated, or even feeling the ſtomach warmed by it. It is impoſſible to aſcertain the quantities neceſſary upon theſe occaſions. This muſt be left to the feelings and diſcretion of the patient. The ſafer way however is not to go too far. When there is an inclination to vomit, it may be promoted by drinking an infuſion of camomile flowers or *carduus benedictus*.

† One of the moſt obſtinate caſes of this kind I ever met with was in a ſhoemaker. After trying numberleſs medicines to no purpoſe, I adviſed him to turn gardener, which he did, and has ever ſince enjoyed very good health.

If a pain of the ſtomach proceeds from the ſtoppage of cuſtomary evacuations, bleeding will be neceſſary, eſpecially in ſanguine and very full habits. It will likewiſe be of uſe to keep the belly gently open by mild purgatives; as rhubarb or ſenna, *&c.* When this diſeaſe affects women in the decline of life, after the ſtoppage of the *menſes*, making an iſſue in the leg or arm will be of peculiar ſervice.

When the diſeaſe is occaſioned by worms, they muſt be deſtroyed, or expelled by ſuch means as are recommended in the following ſection.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXXV.

OF WORMS.

THESE are chiefly of three kinds, *viz.* the *tænia*, or tape-worm; the *teres*, or round and long worm; and the *aſcarides*, or round and ſhort worm. There are many other kinds of worms found in the human body; but as they proceed, in a great meaſure, from ſimilar cauſes, have nearly the ſame ſymptoms, and require almoſt the ſame method of treatment, we ſhall not ſpend time in enumerating them.

THE tape-worm is white, very long, and all over-jointed. It is generally bred either in the ſtomach or ſmall inteſtines. The round and long worm is likewiſe bred in the ſmall guts, and ſometimes in the ſtomach. The round and ſhort worms commonly lodge in the *rectum*, or what is called the end-gut, and occaſion a diſagreeable itching about the ſeat.

THE long round worms occaſion ſqueamiſhneſs, vomiting, a diſagreeable breath, gripes, looſeneſs, ſwelling of the belly, ſwoonings, loathing of food, and at other times a voracious appetite, a dry cough, convulſions, epileptic fits, and ſometimes

times a privation of ſpeech. Theſe worms have been known to perforate the inteſtines, and get into the cavity of the belly. The effects of the tape-worm are nearly the ſame with thoſe of the long and round, but rather more violent.

ANDRY ſays, the following ſymptoms particularly attend the *ſolium*, which is a ſpecies of the tape-worm, *viz.* ſwoonings, privation of ſpeech, and a voracious appetite. The round worms called *aſcarides*, beſides an itching of the *anus*, cauſe ſwoonings, and teneſmus, or an inclination to go to ſtool.

CAUSES.——Worms may proceed from various cauſes; but they are ſeldom found except in weak and relaxed ſtomachs, where the digeſtion is bad. Sedentary perſons are more liable to them than the active and laborious. Thoſe who eat great quantities of unripe fruit, or who live much on raw herbs and roots, are generally ſubject to worms. They are often a ſymptom of fevers, and other acute diſeaſes. There ſeems to be a hereditary diſpoſition in ſome perſons to this diſeaſe. I have often ſeen all the children of a family ſubject to worms of a particular kind. They ſeem likewiſe frequently to be owing to the nurſe. Children of the ſame family, nurſed by one woman, have often worms, when thoſe nurſed by another have none.

CHILDREN are more liable to this diſeaſe than adults; though infants on the breaſt are ſeldom

troubled with it. To this however there are ſeveral exceptions. I have ſeen a child who paſſed worms before it was three months old. They were indeed of a very particular kind, being real caterpillars. Some of them were above an inch long; they had red heads, and were ſo briſk as to jump about; they lived ſeveral days after the child had paſſed them. Another child ſuckled by the ſame woman paſſed the ſame kind of worms when upon the breaſt, and both children ſuffered extremely before the worms came away.

SYMPTOMS.——The common ſymptoms of worms, are paleneſs of the countenance, and, at other times, an univerſal fluſhing of the face; itching of the noſe, this however is doubtful, as children pick their noſes in all diſeaſes; ſtarting, and grinding of the teeth in ſleep; ſwelling of the upper lip; the appetite ſometimes bad, at other times quite voracious; looſeneſs; a ſour or ſtinking breath; a hard ſwelled belly; great thirſt; the urine frothy, and ſometimes of a whitiſh colour; griping, or colic pains; an involuntary diſcharge of *ſaliva*, eſpecially when aſleep; frequent pains of the ſide, with a dry cough, and unequal pulſe; palpitations of the heart; ſwoonings; drowſineſs; cold ſweats; palſy; epileptic fits, with many other unaccountable nervous ſymptoms, which were formerly attributed to witchcraft, or the influence of evil ſpirits. Small bodies in the excrements reſembling melon

or cucumber ſeeds are ſymptoms of the tape-worm.

I LATELY ſaw ſome very ſurpriſing effects of worms in a girl about five years of age, who uſed to lie for whole hours as if dead. She at laſt expired, and upon opening her body a number of the *teres*, or long round worms, were found in her guts, which were conſiderably inflamed; and what anatomiſts call an *intuſſuſceptio*, or involving of one part of the gut within another, had taken place in no leſs than four different parts of the inteſtinal canal.

MEDICINES.—Though numberleſs medicines are extolled for killing and expelling worms*, yet no diſeaſe more frequently baffles the phyſician's ſkill. In general, the moſt proper medicines for their expulſion are ſtrong purgatives; and to prevent their breeding, ſtomachic-bitters, with now and then a glaſs of good wine.

THE beſt purge for an adult is jalap and calomel. Five and twenty or thirty grains of the former, with ſix or ſeven of the latter, mixed in ſyrup, may be taken early in the morning for a doſe. It will be proper that the patient keep the houſe all day, and drink nothing cold. The doſe may be repeated once or twice a-week, for a

* A medical writer of the preſent age has enumerated upwards of fifty Britiſh plants, all famous for killing and expelling worms out of the body.

fortnight or three weeks. On the intermediate days the patient may take a dram of the powder of tin, twice or thrice a-day, mixed with ſyrup, honey, or treacle.

THOSE who do not chuſe to take calomel may make uſe of the bitter purgatives; as aloes, hiera picra, tincture of ſenna and rhubarb, *&c.*

OILY medicines are ſometimes found beneficial for expelling worms. An ounce of ſallad oil and a table-ſpoonful of common ſalt, may be taken in a glaſs of red port wine thrice a-day, or oftener if the ſtomach will bear it. But the more common form of uſing oil is in clyſters. Oily clyſters ſweetened with ſugar or honey, are very efficacious in bringing away the ſhort round worms called *aſcarides*, and likewiſe the *teres*.

THE Harrowgate water is an excellent medicine for expelling worms, eſpecially the *aſcarides*. As this water evidently abounds with ſulphur, we may hence infer, that ſulphur alone muſt be a good medicine in this caſe; which is found to be a fact. Many practitioners give flour of ſulphur in very large doſes, and with great ſucceſs. It ſhould be made into an electuary with honey or treacle, and taken in ſuch quantity as to purge the patient.

WHERE Harrowgate-water cannot be obtained, ſea-water may be uſed, which is far from being a contemptible medicine in this caſe. If ſea-water cannot

cannot be had, common ſalt diſſolved in water may be drunk. I have often ſeen this uſed by country nurſes with very good effect.

But worms, though expelled, will ſoon breed again, if the ſtomach remains weak and relaxed; to prevent which, we would recommend the Peruvian bark. Half a dram of bark in powder may be taken in a glaſs of red port wine, three or four times a-day, after the above medicines have been uſed. Lime-water is likewiſe good for this purpoſe, or a table-ſpoonful of the chalybeate wine taken twice or thrice a-day. Infuſions or decoctions of bitter herbs may likewiſe be drank; as the infuſion of tanſy, water-trefoil, camomile-flowers, tops of wormwood, the leſſer centaury, *&c.*

The above directions are calculated for adults; but for children the medicines muſt be more agreeable, and given in ſmaller doſes.

For a child of four or five years old, ten grains of rhubarb, five of jalap, and two of calomel, may be mixed in a ſpoonful of ſyrup or honey, and given in the morning. The child ſhould keep the houſe all day, and take nothing cold. This doſe may be repeated twice a-week for three or four weeks. On the intermediate days the child may take a ſcruple of powdered tin and ten grains of æthiops mineral in a ſpoonful of of treacle twice a-day. Theſe doſes muſt be increaſed or diminiſhed according to the age of the patient.

Bisset ſays, the great baſtard black hellebore, or *bear's foot*, is a moſt powerful vermifuge for the long round worms. He orders the decoction of about a dram of the green leaves, or about fifteen grains of the dried leaves in powder, for a doſe to a child betwixt four and ſeven years of age. This doſe is to be repeated two or three times. He adds, that the green leaves made into a ſyrup with coarſe ſugar is almoſt the only medicine he has uſed for round worms for three years paſt. Before preſſing out the juice, he moiſtens the bruiſed leaves with vinegar, which corrects the medicine. The doſe is a tea-ſpoonful at bed-time, and one or two next morning.

I have frequently known thoſe big bellies, which in children are commonly reckoned a ſign of worms, quite removed by giving them white ſoap in their pottage, or other food. Tanſy, garlic, and rue, are all good againſt worms, and may be uſed various ways. We might here mention many other plants, both for external and internal uſe, but think the powder of tin with æthiops mineral, and the purges of rhubarb and calomel are more to be depended on *.

* Ball's purging vermifuge powder is a very powerful medicine. It is made of equal parts of rhubarb, ſcammony, and calomel, with as much double-refined ſugar as is equal to the weight of all the other ingredients. Theſe muſt be well mixed together, and reduced to a fine powder. The doſe for a child is from ten grains to twenty, once or twice a-week. An adult may take a dram for a doſe.

PARENTS who would preſerve their children from worms ought to allow them plenty of exerciſe in the open air; to take care that their food be wholeſome and ſufficiently ſolid; and, as far as poſſible, to prevent their eating raw herbs, roots, or green traſhy fruits. It will not be amiſs to allow a child who is ſubject to worms, a glaſs of red wine after meals; as every thing that braces and ſtrengthens the ſtomach is good both for preventing and expelling theſe vermin *.

* We think it neceſſary here to warn people of their danger who buy cakes, powders, and other worm-medicines, at random from quacks, and give them to their children without proper care. The principal ingredients in moſt of theſe medicines is mercury, which is never to be trifled with. I lately ſaw a ſhocking inſtance of the danger of this conduct. A girl who had taken a doſe of worm-powder, bought of a travelling quack, went out, and perhaps was ſo imprudent as to drink cold water, during its operation. She immediately ſwelled, and died that very day, with all the ſymptoms of having been poiſoned.

CHAP. XXXVI.

OF THE JAUNDICE.

THIS diſeaſe is firſt obſervable in the white of the eye, which appears yellow. Afterwards the whole ſkin puts on a yellow appearance. The urine too is of a ſaffron hue, and dies a white cloth of the ſame colour. There is another ſpecies of this diſeaſe called the Black Jaundice.

CAUSES.——The immediate cauſe of the jaundice is an obſtruction of the bile. The remote or occaſional cauſes are, the bites of poiſonous animals, as the viper, mad dog, *&c.* the bilious or hyſteric colic; violent paſſions, as grief, anger, *&c.* Strong purges or vomits will likewiſe occaſion the jaundice. Sometimes it proceeds from obſtinate agues, or from that diſeaſe being prematurely ſtopped by aſtringent medicines. In infants it is often occaſioned by the *meconium* not being ſufficiently purged off. Pregnant women are very ſubject to it. It is likewiſe a ſymptom in ſeveral kinds of fevers. Catching cold, or the ſtoppage of cuſtomary evacuations, as the *menſes*, the bleeding piles, iſſues, *&c.* will occaſion the jaundice.

SYMPTOMS.——The patient at firſt complains of exceſſive wearineſs, and has great averſion to every kind of motion. His ſkin is dry, and he generally feels a kind of itching or prick-

ing

ing pain over the whole body. The ſtools are of a whitiſh or clay colour, and the urine, as was obſerved above, is yellow. The breathing is difficult, and the patient complains of an unuſual load or oppreſſion on his breaſt. There is a heat in the noſtrils, a bitter taſte in the mouth, loathing of food, ſickneſs at the ſtomach, vomiting, flatulency, and frequently all objects appear to the eye of a yellow colour.

If the patient be young, and the diſeaſe complicated with no other malady, it is ſeldom dangerous; but in old people, where it continues long, returns frequently, or is complicated with the dropſy or hypochondriac ſymptoms, it generally proves fatal. The black jaundice is more dangerous than the yellow.

REGIMEN.——The diet ſhould be cool, light, and diluting, conſiſting chiefly of ripe fruits and mild vegetables; as apples boiled or roaſted, ſtewed prunes, preſerved plums, boiled ſpinage, *&c.* Veal or chicken broth, with light bread, are likewiſe very proper. The drink ſhould be butter-milk, whey ſweetened with honey, or decoctions of cool opening vegetables; as marſh-mallow roots, with liquorice, *&c.*

The patient ſhould take as much exerciſe as he can bear, either on horſeback or in a machine; walking, running, and even jumping, are likewiſe proper, provided he can bear them without pain, and there be no ſymptoms of inflammation.

Patients

Patients have been often cured of this diſeaſe by a long journey, after medicines had proved ineffectual.

AMUSEMENTS are likewiſe of great uſe in the jaundice. The diſeaſe is often occaſioned by a ſedentary life, joined to a dull melancholy diſpoſition. Whatever therefore tends to promote the circulation, and to cheer the ſpirits, muſt have a good effect; as dancing, laughing, ſinging, &c.

MEDICINE.——If the patient be young, of a full ſanguine habit, and complains of pain in the right ſide, about the region of the liver, bleeding will be neceſſary. After this a vomit muſt be adminiſtered, and if the diſeaſe proves obſtinate, it may be repeated once or twice. No medicines are more beneficial in the jaundice than vomits, eſpecially where it is not attended with inflammation. Half a dram of ipecacuanha in powder will be a ſufficient doſe for an adult. It may be wrought off with weak camomile-tea, or lukewarm water.

THE belly muſt likewiſe be kept open by mild purgatives. Caſtile ſoap, if taken in ſufficient quantities, anſwers this purpoſe very well. It may be taken from half an ounce to an ounce daily, for a conſiderable time. As few people have reſolution to ſwallow ſuch large quantities of ſoap, I generally give pills made of ſoap, aloes, and rhubarb, which anſwer the ſame intention, in a ſmaller

ſmaller doſe. They may be prepared and taken as under*.

Fomenting the parts about the region of the ſtomach and liver, and rubbing them with a warm hand or fleſh-bruſh, are likewiſe beneficial; but it is ſtill more ſo for the patient to ſit in a veſſel of warm water up to the breaſt. He ought to do this frequently, and ſhould continue in it as long as his ſtrength will permit.

Many dirty things are recommended for the cure of the jaundice; as lice, millepedes, *&c.* But theſe do more harm than good, as people truſt to them, and neglect more valuable medicines; beſides, they are ſeldom taken in ſufficient quantity to produce any effects. People always expect that ſuch *things* ſhould act as charms, and conſequently ſeldom perſiſt in the uſe of them. Vomits, purges, fomentations, and exerciſe, will ſeldom fail to cure the jaundice when it is a ſimple diſeaſe; and when complicated with the dropſy, a ſchirrous liver, or other chronic complaints, it is hardly to be cured by any means.

Numberless Britiſh herbs are extolled for the cure of this diſeaſe. The author of the *Medicina*

* Take ſocotrine aloes and Turkey rhubarb in powder, of each two drams, Caſtile ſoap an ounce. Beat them all together, with a little ſyrup, into a proper conſiſtence for pills. Let them be formed into pills of an ordinary ſize, and five or ſix of them taken twice or thrice a-day. They muſt be continued for ſome time, and the quantity regulated by the patient's ſtools, of which he ought at leaſt to have two every day.

Britannica

Britannica mentions near a hundred, all famous for curing the jaundice. The fact is, this diſeaſe often goes off of its own accord; in which caſe the laſt medicine is always ſaid to have performed the cure. I have ſometimes ſeen conſiderable benefit; in a very obſtinate jaundice, from a decoction of hemp-ſeed. Four ounces of the ſeed may be boiled in two Engliſh quarts of ale, and ſweetened with coarſe ſugar. The doſe is half an Engliſh pint every morning. It may be continued for eight or nine days.

I HAVE known Harrowgate ſulphur-water cure a jaundice of very long ſtanding. It ſhould be uſed for ſome time, and the patient muſt both drink and bathe.

THE ſoluble tartar is likewiſe a very proper medicine in the jaundice. A dram of it may be taken every night and morning in a cup of tea or water-gruel. If it does not open the belly, the doſe may be increaſed.

PERSONS ſubject to the jaundice ought to take as much exerciſe as poſſible, and to avoid all heating and aſtringent aliments.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXXVII.

OF THE DROPSY.

THE dropſy is a preternatural ſwelling of the whole body, or ſome part of it, occaſioned by a collection of watery humour. It is diſtinguiſhed by different names, according to the part affected, as the *anaſarca*, or a collection of water under the ſkin; the *aſcites*, or a collection of water in the belly; the *hydrops pectoris*, or dropſy of the breaſt; the *hydrocephalus*, or dropſy of the brain, *&c.*

CAUSES.——A very common cauſe of the dropſy is a hereditary diſpoſition. It may likewiſe proceed from drinking ardent ſpirits, or other ſtrong liquors. It is true, almoſt to a proverb, that great drinkers die of a dropſy. The want of exerciſe is alſo a very common cauſe of the dropſy. Hence it is juſtly reckoned among the diſeaſes of the ſedentary. It often proceeds from exceſſive evacuations, as frequent and copious bleedings, ſtrong purges often repeated, frequent ſalivations, *&c.* The ſudden ſtoppage of cuſtomary or neceſſary evacuations, as the *menſes*, the hæmorrhoids, fluxes of the belly, *&c.* may likewiſe cauſe a dropſy.

I HAVE often known the dropſy occaſioned by drinking large quantities of cold, weak, watery liquor when the body was heated by violent exerciſe. A low, damp, or marſhy ſituation is likewiſe a frequent cauſe of it. Hence it is a common diſeaſe in moiſt, flat, fenny countries. It may alſo be brought on by a long uſe of poor watery diet, or of viſcous aliment that is hard of digeſtion. It is often the effect of other diſeaſes, as the jaundice, a ſchirrus of the liver, a violent ague of long continuance, a diarrhœa, a dyſentery, an empyema, or a conſumption of the lungs. In ſhort, whatever obſtructs the circulation of the blood, or prevents its being duly prepared, may occaſion a dropſy.

SYMPTOMS.——This diſeaſe generally begins with a ſwelling of the feet and ancles towards night, which, for ſome time, diſappears in the morning. In the evening the parts, if preſſed with the finger, will pit. The ſwelling gradually aſcends towards the belly, which at length grows big. When it is ſtruck with the hand, a fluctuation may be felt, and ſometimes heard. Afterwards the breathing becomes difficult, the urine is in ſmall quantity, and the thirſt great; the belly is bound, and the perſpiration is greatly obſtructed. To theſe ſucceed torpor, heavineſs, a ſlow waſting fever, and a troubleſome cough. This laſt is generally a fatal ſymptom, as it ſhews that the lungs are affected.

WHEN

When the diſeaſe comes ſuddenly on, and the patient is young and ſtrong, there is reaſon to hope for a cure, eſpecially if medicine be given early. But if the patient be old, has led an irregular or a ſedentary life, or if there be reaſon to ſuſpect that the liver, lungs, or any of the viſcera are unſound, there is great ground to fear that the conſequences will prove fatal.

REGIMEN.——The patient muſt abſtain, as much as poſſible, from all drink, eſpecially weak and watery liquors, and muſt quench his thirſt with muſtard-whey, or acids, as juice of lemons, oranges, ſorrel, or ſuch like. His aliment ought to be dry, of a heating and diuretic quality, as toaſted bread, the fleſh of birds, or other wild animals, roaſted; pungent and aromatic vegetables, as garlic, muſtard, onions, creſſes, horſe-radiſh, rocambole, ſhalot, *&c.* He may alſo eat ſea-biſcuit dipt in wine or a little brandy. This is not only nouriſhing, but tends to quench thirſt. Some have been actually cured of a dropſy by a total abſtinence from all liquids, and living entirely upon ſuch things as are mentioned above. If the patient muſt have drink, the ſpaw-water, or Rheniſh wine, with diuretic medicines infuſed in it, are the beſt.

Exercise is of the greateſt importance in a dropſy. If the patient be able to walk, dance, or run about, he ought to continue theſe exerciſes as long as he can. If he be not able to walk

or

or run, he muſt ride on horſeback, or in a carriage, and the more violent the motion ſo much the better, provided he can bear it. His bed ought to be hard, and the air of his apartments warm and dry. If he lives in a damp country, he ought to be removed into a dry one, and, if poſſible, into a warmer climate. In a word, every method muſt be taken to promote the perſpiration and to brace the ſolids. For this purpoſe it will likewiſe be proper to rub the patient's body, two or three times a-day, with a hard cloth or the fleſh-bruſh, and he ought conſtantly to wear flannel next his ſkin.

MEDICINE.——If the patient be young, his conſtitution good, and the diſeaſe has come on ſuddenly, it may generally be removed by ſtrong vomits, briſk purges, and ſuch medicines as promote a diſcharge of ſweat and urine. For an adult half a dram of ipecacuanha in powder, and half an ounce of oxymel of ſquills, will be a proper vomit. This may be repeated three or four times, if neceſſary, three or four days intervening betwixt each doſe. The patient muſt not drink much after the vomit, otherwiſe he deſtroys its effect. A cup or two of camomile-tea will be ſufficient to work it off.

Betwixt each vomit, on one of the intermediate days, the patient may take the following purge: Jalap in powder half a dram, cream of tartar two drams, calomel ſix grains. Theſe may be

be made into a bolus with a little ſyrup of pale roſes, and taken early in the morning. The leſs the patient drinks after it the better. If he be much griped, he may take now and then a cup of chicken-broth.

The patient may likewiſe take every night at bed-time the following bolus: To four or five grains of camphor add one grain of opium, and as much ſyrup of orange-peel as is ſufficient to make them into a bolus. This will generally promote a gentle ſweat, which ſhould be encouraged by drinking now and then a ſmall cup of wine-whey, with a tea-ſpoonful of the ſpirits of hartſhorn in it. A tea-cupful of the following diuretic infuſion may likewiſe be taken every four or five hours through the day *.

As this diſeaſe is very apt to return; after the water has been drained off, to prevent its collecting again, the patient muſt continue to take exerciſe, to uſe a dry diet, and ſuch medicines as ſtrengthen and brace the ſolids, as wine with ſteel or bark infuſed in it; warm and aromatic bitters infuſed in wine or brandy are likewiſe proper, as the Virginian ſnake-root, *canella alba*, orange-peel, *&c.* The patient muſt avoid all great eva-

* Take juniper berries, muſtard ſeed, and horſe-radiſh, of each half an ounce, aſhes of broom half a pound; infuſe them in a quart of Rheniſh wine or ſtrong ale for a few days, and afterwards ſtrain off the liquor. Such as cannot take this infuſion, may uſe the decoction of ſeneka-root, which is both diuretic and ſudorific.

cuations, and ought, if he can, to make choice of a dry warm ſituation.

THE above courſe will often cure an incidental dropſy, if the conſtitution be good; but when the diſeaſe proceeds from a bad habit, or an unſound ſtate of the viſcera, ſtrong purges and vomits are not to be ventured upon. In this caſe, the ſafer courſe is to palliate the ſymptoms by the uſe of ſuch medicines as promote the ſecretions, and to ſupport the patient's ſtrength by warm and nouriſhing cordials.

THE ſecretion of urine may be greatly promoted by nitre. Brookes ſays, he knew a young woman who was cured of a dropſy by taking a dram of nitre every morning in a draught of ale, after ſhe had been given over as incurable. The powder of ſquills is likewiſe a good diuretic. Six or eight grains of it, with a ſcruple of nitre, may be given twice a day in a glaſs of ſtrong cinnamon water. Ball ſays, a large ſpoonful of unbruiſed muſtard-ſeed taken every night and morning, and drinking half an Engliſh pint of the decoction of the tops of green broom after it, has performed a cure, after other powerful medicines had proved ineffectual.

I HAVE ſeen extraordinary effects from cream of tartar in this diſeaſe. It promotes the diſcharges by ſtool and urine, and will often perform a cure when duly perſiſted in. The patient may begin by taking an ounce every ſecond or third day, and may

may increaſe the quantity to two or even to three ounces, if the ſtomach will bear it. This quantity is not however to be taken at once, but divided into three or four doſes.

To promote perſpiration, the patient may uſe the decoction of ſeneka-root, as directed above; or he may take two ſpoonfuls of Mindererus's ſpirit in a cup of wine-whey three or four times a-day. The diuretic infuſion of the London Hoſpitals is likewiſe a very proper medicine in this diſeaſe*. When other means fail, recourſe muſt be had to tapping and ſcarifications. Theſe often give eaſe, though they ſeldom produce a radical cure.

* Take of zedoary root, two drams; dried ſquills, rhubarb, and juniper-berries bruiſed, of each a dram; cinnamon in powder, three drams; ſalt of wormwood, a dram and an half: infuſe in an Engliſh pint and a half of old hock wine, and when fit for uſe, filter the liquor. A wine glaſs of it may be taken three or four times a-day.

CHAP. XXXVIII.

OF THE GOUT.

THERE is no diſeaſe which ſhews the imperfection of medicine, or ſets the advantages of temperance and exerciſe in a ſtronger light than this. Few who pay a proper regard to theſe are troubled with the gout. This points out the true ſource from whence that malady originally ſprung, *viz. exceſs* and *idleneſs*. It likewiſe ſhews us that the only ſafe and efficacious method of cure, or rather of prevention, muſt depend, not upon medicine, but on *temperance* and *activity*.

Though idleneſs and intemperance are the principal cauſes of the gout, yet many other things may contribute to bring on the diſorder in thoſe who are not, and to induce a paroxyſm in thoſe who are ſubject to it, as intenſe ſtudy; too free an uſe of acid liquors; night-watching; grief or uneaſineſs of mind; an obſtruction or defect of any of the cuſtomary diſcharges, as the menſes, ſweating of the feet, perſpiration, *&c.*

SYMPTOMS.——A fit of the gout is generally preceded by indigeſtion, drowſineſs, wind, a ſlight head-ach, ſickneſs, and ſometimes vomiting. The patient complains of wearineſs and

dejection of ſpirits, and has often a pain in the limbs, with a ſenſation as if wind or cold water were paſſing down the thigh. The appetite is often remarkably keen a day or two before the fit, and there is a ſlight pain in paſſing urine, and ſometimes an involuntary ſhedding of tears. Sometimes theſe ſymptoms are much more violent, eſpecially upon the near approach of the fit; and ſome obſerve, that as the fever which uſhers in the gout is, ſo will the fit be; if the fever be ſhort and ſharp, the fit will be ſo likewiſe; if it be feeble, long, and lingering, the fit will be ſuch alſo. But this obſervation can only hold with reſpect to very regular fits of the gout.

The regular gout generally makes its attack in the ſpring, or beginning of winter, in the following manner: About two or three in the morning, the patient is ſeized with a pain in his great toe, ſometimes in the heel, and at other times in the ancle or calf of the leg. This pain is accompanied with a ſenſation, as if cold water were poured upon the part, which is ſucceeded by a ſhivering, with ſome degree of fever. Afterwards the pain increaſes, and fixing among the ſmall bones of the foot, the patient feels all the different kinds of torture, as if the part were ſtretched, burnt, ſqueezed, gnawed, or torn in pieces, *&c.* The part at length becomes ſo exquiſitely ſenſible, that the patient cannot bear to have it touched, or even ſuffer any perſon to walk acroſs the room.

The patient is generally in exquiſite torture for twenty-four hours, from the time of the coming on of the fit: He then becomes eaſier, the part begins to ſwell, appears red, and is covered with a little moiſture. Towards morning he drops aſleep, and generally falls into a gentle breathing ſweat. This terminates the firſt paroxyſm, a number of which conſtitutes a fit of the gout; which is longer or ſhorter according to the patient's age, ſtrength, the ſeaſon of the year, and the diſpoſition of the body to this diſeaſe.

The patient is always worſe towards night, and eaſier in the morning. The paroxyſms however generally grow milder every day, till at length the diſeaſe is carried off by perſpiration, urine, and the other evacuations. In ſome patients this happens in a few days; in others, it requires weeks, and in ſome, months, to finiſh the fit. Thoſe whom age and frequent fits of the gout have greatly debilitated, ſeldom get free of it before the approach of ſummer, and ſometimes not till it be pretty far advanced.

REGIMEN.——As there are no medicines, yet known, that will cure the gout, we ſhall confine our obſervations chiefly to regimen, both in and out of the fit.

In the fit, if the patient be young and ſtrong, his diet ought to be thin and cooling, and his drink of a diluting nature; but where the conſtitution

ſtitution is weak, and the patient has been accuſtomed to live high, this is not a proper time to retrench. In this caſe he muſt keep nearly to his uſual diet, and ſhould take frequently a cup of ſtrong negas, or a glaſs of generous wine. Wine-whey is a very proper drink in this caſe, as it promotes the perſpiration without greatly heating the patient. It will anſwer this purpoſe better if a tea-ſpoonful of *ſal volatile oleoſum*, or ſpirits of hartſhorn, be put into a cup of it twice a-day. It will likewiſe be proper to give at bed-time a tea-ſpoonful of the volatile tincture of *guaiacum* in a large draught of warm wine-whey. This will greatly promote perſpiration through the night.

As the moſt ſafe and efficacious method of diſcharging the gouty matter is by perſpiration, this ought to be kept up by all means, eſpecially in the affected part. For this purpoſe the leg and foot ſhould be wrapt in ſoft flannel, fur, or wool. The laſt is moſt readily obtained, and ſeems to anſwer the purpoſe better than any thing elſe. The people of Lancaſhire look upon wool as a kind of ſpecific in the gout. They wrap a great quantity of it about the leg and foot affected, and cover it with a ſkin of ſoft dreſſed leather. This they ſuffer to continue for eight or ten days, and ſometimes for a fortnight or three weeks, or longer if the pain does not ceaſe. I never knew any external application anſwer ſo well in the gout. I have often ſeen it applied when the ſwelling and inflammation were very great, with violent pain,

and have found all theſe ſymptoms relieved by it in a few days. The wool which they uſe is generally greaſed, and carded or combed. They chuſe the ſofteſt which can be had, and ſeldom or never remove it till the fit be entirely gone off.

The patient ought likewiſe to be kept quiet and eaſy during the fit. Every thing that affects the mind diſturbs the paroxyſm, and tends to throw the gout upon the nobler parts. All external applications that repel the matter are to be avoided as death. They do not cure the diſeaſe, but remove it from a ſafer to a more dangerous part of the body, where it often proves fatal. A fit of the gout is rather to be conſidered as Nature's method of curing a diſeaſe than the diſeaſe itſelf, and all that we can do, with ſafety, is to promote her intentions, and to aſſiſt her in expelling the enemy in her own way. Evacuations by bleeding, ſtool, *&c.* are likewiſe to be uſed with caution; they do not remove the cauſe of the diſeaſe, and ſometimes by weakening the patient prolong the fit: But, where the conſtitution is able to bear it, it will be of uſe to keep the belly gently open by diet, or very mild laxative medicines.

Many things will indeed ſhorten a fit of the gout, and ſome will drive it off altogether; but nothing has yet been found which will do this with ſafety to the patient. In pain we eagerly graſp at any thing that promiſes immediate eaſe, and even hazard life itſelf for a temporary relief. This is

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the true reaſon why ſo many infallible remedies have been propoſed for the gout, and why ſuch numbers have loſt their lives by the uſe of them. It would be as prudent to ſtop the ſmall-pox from riſing, and to drive them into the blood, as to attempt to repel the gouty matter after it has been thrown upon the extremities. The latter is as much an effort of Nature to free herſelf from an offending cauſe as the former, and ought equally to be promoted.

When the pain however is very great, and the patient is reſtleſs, thirty or forty drops of laudanum, more or leſs, according to the violence of the ſymptoms, may be taken at bed-time. This will eaſe the pain, procure reſt, promote perſpiration, and forward the criſis of the diſeaſe.

After the fit is over, the patient ought to take a gentle doſe or two of the bitter tincture of rhubarb, or ſome other warm ſtomachic purge. He ſhould alſo drink a weak infuſion of ſtomachic bitters in ſmall wine or ale, as Gentian, or bark with cinnamon, Virginian ſnake-root, and orange-peel. The diet at this time ſhould be light, but nouriſhing, and gentle exerciſe ought to be taken on horſeback or in a carriage.

Out of the fit, it is in the patient's power to do many things towards preventing a return of the diſorder, or rendering the fit, if it ſhould return, leſs ſevere. This however is not to be attempted by medicine. I have frequently known the

the gout kept off for ſeveral years by the Peruvian bark and other medicines; but in all the caſes where I had occaſion to ſee this tried, the perſons died ſuddenly, and, to all appearance, for want of a regular fit of the gout. One would be apt, from hence, to conclude, that a fit of the gout, to ſome conſtitutions, in the decline of life, is rather ſalutary than hurtful.

Though it may be dangerous to ſtop a fit of the gout by medicine, yet if the conſtitution can be ſo changed by diet and exerciſe, as to leſſen or totally prevent its return, there certainly can be no danger in following ſuch a courſe. It is well known that the whole habit may be ſo altered by a proper regimen, as quite to eradicate this diſeaſe; and thoſe only who have ſufficient reſolution to perſiſt in ſuch a courſe, have reaſon to expect a cure.

The courſe which we would recommend for preventing the gout, is as follows: In the firſt place, *univerſal temperance*. In the next place, *ſufficient exerciſe*. By this we do not mean ſauntering about in an indolent manner, but labour, ſweat, and toil. Theſe only can render the humours wholeſome, and keep them ſo. Going early to bed, and riſing by times, are alſo of great importance. It is likewiſe proper to avoid night ſtudies, and all intenſe thought. The ſupper ſhould be light, and taken early. All ſtrong liquors,

liquors, eſpecially generous wines and ſour punch, are to be avoided.

We would likewiſe recommend ſome doſes of *magneſia alba* and rhubarb to be taken every ſpring and autumn; and afterwards a courſe of ſtomachic bitters, as tanſy or water-trefoil-tea, an infuſion of gentian and camomile flowers, or a decoction of burdock-root, *&c.* Any of theſe, or an infuſion of any wholeſome bitter that is more agreeable to the patient, may be drank for two or three weeks in March and October twice a-day. An iſſue or perpetual bliſter has a great tendency to prevent the gout. If theſe were more generally uſed in the decline of life, they would not only often prevent the gout, but alſo other chronic maladies. Such as can afford to go to Bath, will find great benefit from bathing and drinking the water. It both promotes digeſtion and invigorates the habit.

When the gout attacks the head or lungs, every method muſt be taken to draw it towards the feet. They muſt be frequently bathed in warm water, and acrid cataplaſms applied to the ſoles. Bliſtering plaſters ought likewiſe to be applied to the ancles or calves of the legs. Bleeding in the feet or ancles is alſo neceſſary, and warm ſtomachic purges. The patient ought to keep in bed for the moſt part, if there be any ſigns of inflammation, and ſhould be very careful not to catch cold.

If it attacks the ſtomach with a ſenſe of cold, the moſt warm cordials are neceſſary; as ſtrong wine, cinnamon-water, peppermint-water, and even brandy or rum. The patient ſhould keep his bed, and endeavour to promote a ſweat by drinking warm liquors; and if he ſhould be troubled with a nauſea, or inclination to vomit, he may drink camomile-tea or any thing that will make him vomit freely.

When the gout attacks the kidneys, and imitates gravel-pains, the patient ought to drink freely of a decoction of marſh-mallows, and to have the parts fomented with warm water. An emollient clyſter ought likewiſe to be given, and afterwards an opiate. If the pain be very violent, twenty or thirty drops of laudanum may be taken in a cup of the decoction.

Persons who have had the gout ſhould be very attentive to any complaints that may happen to them about the time when they have reaſon to expect a return of the fit. The gout imitates many other diſorders, and by being miſtaken for them, and treated improperly, is often diverted from its regular courſe, to the great danger of the patient's life.

Those who never had the gout, but who, from their conſtitution or manner of living, have reaſon to expect it, ought likewiſe to be very circumſpect with regard to its firſt approach. If the diſeaſe, by wrong conduct or improper medicines, be diverted

diverted from its proper courſe, the miſerable patient has a chance to be ever after tormented with head-achs, coughs, pains of the ſtomach and inteſtines; and to fall, at laſt, a victim to its attack upon ſome of the more noble parts.

OF THE RHEUMATISM.

This diſeaſe has great affinity to the gout. It generally attacks the joints with exquiſite pain, and is ſometimes attended with inflammation and ſwelling. It is moſt common in the ſpring and towards the end of autumn. It is uſually diſtinguiſhed into acute and chronic; or the rheumatiſm with and without a fever.

CAUSES.——The cauſes of a rheumatiſm are frequently the ſame as thoſe of an inflammatory fever; *viz.* an obſtructed perſpiration, the immoderate uſe of ſtrong liquors, and the like. Sudden changes of the weather, and all quick tranſitions from heat to cold, are very apt to occaſion the rheumatiſm. The moſt extraordinary caſe of a rheumatiſm that I ever ſaw, where almoſt every joint of the body was diſtorted, was in a man who uſed to work one part of the day by the fire, and the other part of it in the water. Very obſtinate rheumatiſms have likewiſe been brought on by perſons, not accuſtomed to it, allowing their feet to continue long wet. The ſame effects are often produced by wet clothes, damp beds, or lying upon the ground, eſpecially in the night.

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THE rheumatiſm may likewiſe be occaſioned by exceſſive evacuations, or the ſtoppage of uſual diſcharges. It is often the effect of chronic diſeaſes, which vitiate the humours; as the ſcurvy, the *lues venerea*, obſtinate autumnal agues, *&c.*

THE rheumatiſm prevails moſt in low, damp, marſhy countries. It is likewiſe very common amongſt the poorer ſort of peaſants, who are ill clothed, live in low, cold houſes, and eat coarſe unwholeſome food, which contains but little nouriſhment, and is not eaſily digeſted.

SYMPTOMS.—The *acute* rheumatiſm commonly begins with wearineſs, ſhivering, a quick pulſe, reſtleſſneſs, thirſt, and other ſymptoms of fever. Afterwards the patient complains of flying pains, which are increaſed by the leaſt motion. Theſe at length fix in the joints, which are often affected with ſwelling and inflammation. If blood be let in this diſeaſe, it has generally the ſame appearance as in the pleuriſy.

IN this kind of rheumatiſm the treatment of the patient is nearly the ſame as in an acute or inflammatory fever. If he be young and ſtrong, bleeding is neceſſary, which may be repeated according to the exigencies of the caſe. The belly ought likewiſe to be kept open by emollient clyſters, or cool opening liquors; as decoctions of tamarinds, cream-tartar-whey, ſenna tea, and the like. The diet ſhould be light, and in ſmall quantity, conſiſting chiefly of roaſted apples,

groat-gruel, or weak chicken-broth. After the feveriſh ſymptoms have abated, if the pain ſtill continues, the patient muſt keep his bed, and take ſuch things as promote perſpiration; as wine-whey, with *ſpiritus Mindereri*, *&c.* The patient may likewiſe take, for a few nights, at bed-time, in a cup of wine-whey, a dram of the cream of tartar, and half a dram of gum guaiacum in powder.

Warm bathing, after proper evacuations, has often an exceeding good effect. The patient may either be put into a bath of warm water, or have cloths wrung out of it applied to the parts affected. Great care muſt be taken that he do not catch cold after bathing.

The *chronic* rheumatiſm is ſeldom attended with any conſiderable degree of fever, and is generally confined to ſome particular part of the body, as the ſhoulders, the back, or the loins. There is ſeldom any inflammation or ſwelling in this caſe. Perſons in the decline of life are moſt ſubject to the chronic rheumatiſm. In ſuch patients it often proves extremely obſtinate, and ſometimes incurable.

In this kind of rheumatiſm the regimen ſhould be nearly the ſame as in the acute. Cool and diluting diet, conſiſting chiefly of vegetable ſubſtances, as ſtewed prunes, coddled apples, currants or gooſeberries boiled in milk, is moſt proper. Arbuthnot ſays, "If there be a ſpecific in aliment for

for the rheumatiſm, it is certainly whey;" and adds, "That he knew a perſon ſubject to this diſeaſe, who could never be cured by any other method but a diet of whey and bread." He likewiſe ſays, "That cream of tartar in water-gruel, taken for ſeveral days, will eaſe rheumatic pains conſiderably." This I have often experienced, but found it always more efficacious when joined with gum guaiacum, as already directed. In this caſe the patient may take the doſe formerly mentioned twice a-day, and likewiſe a tea-ſpoonful of the volatile tincture of gum guaiacum, at bed-time, in wine-whey.

This courſe may be continued for a week, or longer, if the caſe proves obſtinate, and the patient's ſtrength will permit. It ought then to be omitted for a few days, and repeated again. At the ſame time leeches or a bliſtering plaſter may be applied to the part affected. What I have generally found anſwer better than either of theſe, in obſtinate fixed rheumatic pains, is the *warm plaſter**. I have likewiſe known a plaſter of Burgundy-pitch worn for ſome time on the part affected give great relief in obſtinate rheumatic pains. My ingenious friend Dr. Alexander of

* The warm plaſter is made by melting over a gentle fire an ounce of gum plaſter and two drams of bliſtering plaſter. A proper quantity of this may be ſpread upon ſoft leather, and applied to the part affected. It ſhould be taken off and wiped once in three or four days; and may be renewed once a fortnight.

Edinburgh

Edinburgh ſays, he has frequently cured very obſtinate rheumatic pains by rubbing the part affected with tincture of cantharides. When the common tincture did not ſucceed, he uſed it of a double or treble ſtrength. Cupping upon the part affected is likewiſe often very beneficial, and is greatly preferable to the application of leeches.

THOUGH this diſeaſe may not ſeem in the leaſt to yield to medicines for ſome time, yet they ought ſtill to be perſiſted in. Perſons who are ſubject to frequent returns of the rheumatiſm, will often find their account in uſing medicines, whether they be immediately affected with the diſeaſe or not. The chronic rheumatiſm is ſimilar to the gout in this reſpect, that the moſt proper time for uſing medicines to extirpate it, is when the patient is moſt free from it.

To thoſe who can afford the expence, we would recommend the warm baths of Buxton or Matlock in Derbyſhire. Theſe have often cured very obſtinate rheumatiſms, and are always ſafe either in or out of the fit. When the rheumatiſm is complicated with ſcorbutic complaints, which is not ſeldom the caſe, the Harrowgate waters and thoſe of Moffat are proper. They ſhould both be drank and uſed as a warm bath.

THERE are ſeveral of our own domeſtic plants which may be uſed with advantage in the rheumatiſm. One of the beſt is the white *muſtard*. A table-ſpoonful of the ſeed of this plant may be taken twice or thrice a-day, in a glaſs of water or

ſmall wine. The water-trefoil is likewiſe of great uſe in this complaint. It may be infuſed in wine or ale, or drank in form of tea. The ground-ivy, camomile, and ſeveral other bitters, are alſo beneficial, and may be uſed in the ſame manner. No benefit however is to be expected from theſe unleſs they be uſed for a conſiderable time. Excellent medicines are often deſpiſed in this caſe, becauſe they do not perform a cure inſtantaneouſly; whereas nothing would be more certain than their effect, were they uſed for a ſufficient length of time. The want of perſeverance in the uſe of medicines is one of the principal reaſons why chronic diſeaſes are ſo ſeldom cured.

Cold bathing, eſpecially in ſalt water, often cures the rheumatiſm. We would alſo recommend riding on horſeback, and wearing flannel next the ſkin. Iſſues are likwiſe very proper, eſpecially in the chronic rheumatiſm. If the pain affects the ſhoulders, an iſſue may be made in the arm; but if it affects the loins, it ſhould be put in the leg or thigh. Rheumatic perſons ought to make choice of a dry warm air, to avoid getting wet as much as poſſible, and to make frequent uſe of the fleſh bruſh.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXXIX.

OF THE SCURVY.

THIS diſeaſe prevails chiefly in cold northern countries, eſpecially in low damp ſituations, near large marſhes, or great quantities of ſtagnating water. Sedentary people of a dull melancholy diſpoſition are moſt ſubject to it. It proves often fatal to ſailors on long voyages, particularly in ſhips that are not properly ventilated, have many people on board, or where cleanlineſs is neglected.

CAUSES.——The ſcurvy is occaſioned by cold moiſt air; by the long uſe of ſalted or ſmoke-dried proviſions, or of any kind of food that is hard of digeſtion, and affords little nouriſhment. It may alſo proceed from the ſuppreſſion of cuſtomary evacuations; as the *menſes*, the hæmorrhoidal flux, *&c.* It is ſometimes owing to a hereditary taint, in which caſe a very ſmall cauſe will excite the latent diſorder. Grief, fear, and other depreſſing paſſions, have a great tendency both to excite and aggravate this diſeaſe. It may likewiſe proceed from neglect of cleanlineſs; bad clothing; the want of proper exerciſe; confined air; unwholeſome food; or from any diſeaſe which greatly weakens the body or vitiates the humours.

SYMPTOMS.—This diſeaſe may be known by unuſual wearineſs, heavineſs, and difficulty of breathing, eſpecially after motion; rottenneſs of the gums, which are apt to bleed on the ſlighteſt touch; a ſtinking breath; frequent bleeding of the noſe; crackling of the joints; difficulty of walking; ſometimes a ſwelling and ſometimes a falling away of the legs, on which there are livid, yellow, or violet-coloured ſpots; the face is generally of a pale or leaden colour. As the diſeaſe advances, other ſymptoms come on; as rottenneſs of the teeth, hæmorrhages, or diſcharges of blood from different parts of the body, foul obſtinate ulcers, pains in various parts, eſpecially about the breaſt, dry ſcaly eruptions all over the body, *&c.* At laſt a waſting or hectic fever comes on, and the miſerable patient is often carried off by a dyſentery, a diarrhœa, a dropſy, the palſy, fainting fits, or a mortification of ſome of the bowels.

CURE.—We know no method of curing this diſeaſe but by purſuing a courſe directly oppoſite to that which brought it on. It proceeds from a vitiated ſtate of the humours, occaſioned by errors in diet, air, or exerciſe; and this can be removed no other way than by a proper attention to theſe important articles.

If the patient has been obliged to breathe a cold, damp, or confined air, he ſhould be removed, as ſoon as poſſible, to a dry, open, and moderately warm one. If there is reaſon to believe that the

diſeaſe proceeds from a ſedentary life, or depreſſing paſſions, as grief, fear, &c. the patient muſt take daily as much exerciſe in the open air as he can bear, and his mind ſhould be diverted by cheerful company and other amuſements. Nothing has a greater tendency either to prevent, or remove this diſeaſe, than conſtant cheerfulneſs and good-humour. But this, alas, is ſeldom the lot of perſons afflicted with the ſcurvy; they are generally ſurly, peeviſh, ſour, moroſe, and dull.

When the ſcurvy has been brought on by a long uſe of ſalted proviſions, the proper medicine is a diet conſiſting chiefly of freſh vegetables; as apples, oranges, lemons, tamarinds, water-creſſes, ſcurvy-graſs, brook-lime, &c. The uſe of theſe, with milk, pot-herbs, new bread, and freſh beer or cyder, will ſeldom fail to remove a ſcurvy of this kind, if taken before it be too far advanced; but to have this effect they muſt be perſiſted in for a conſiderable time. When freſh vegetables cannot be obtained, pickled or preſerved ones may be uſed; and where theſe are wanting, recourſe muſt be had to the chymical acids. All the patient's food and drink ſhould in this caſe be ſharpened with cream of tartar, elixir of vitriol, vinegar, or the ſpirit of ſea-ſalt, &c.

These things however will more certainly prevent than cure the ſcurvy; for which reaſon ſeafaring people, eſpecially on long voyages, ought to lay in plenty of them. Cabbages, onions,

gooſeberries, and many other vegetables, may be kept a long time by *pickling*, *preſerving*, *&c.* and when theſe fail, the chymical acids, recommended above, which will keep for any length of time, may be uſed. We have reaſon to believe, if ſhips were well ventilated, had good ſtore of fruits, greens, cyder, *&c.* laid in, and if proper regard were paid to cleanlineſs and warmth, that ſailors would be the moſt healthy people in the world, and would ſeldom ſuffer either from the ſcurvy or putrid fevers, which are ſo fatal to that uſeful ſet of men; but it is too much the temper of ſuch people to deſpiſe all precaution; they will not think of any calamity till it overtakes them, when it is too late to ward off the blow.

It muſt indeed be owned, that many of them have it not in their power to make the proviſion we are ſpeaking of; but in this caſe it is the duty of their employers to make it for them; and no man ought to engage in a long voyage without having theſe articles ſecured.

I have often ſeen very extraordinary effects in the ſcurvy from a milk-diet. This preparation of nature is a mixture of animal and vegetable properties, which of all others is the moſt fit for reſtoring a decayed conſtitution, and removing that particular acrimony of the humours, which ſeems to conſtitute the very eſſence of the ſcurvy, and many other diſeaſes. But people deſpiſe this wholeſome and nouriſhing food, becauſe it is cheap, and devour with greedineſs, fleſh, and fermented liquors,

liquors, while milk is only deemed fit for their hogs.

The moſt proper drink in the ſcurvy is whey or butter-milk. When theſe cannot be had, ſound cyder or perry may be uſed. Wort has likewiſe been found to be a proper drink in the ſcurvy, and may be uſed at ſea, as malt will keep during the longeſt voyage. A decoction of the tops of the ſpruce fir is likewiſe proper. It may be drank in the quantity of an Engliſh pint twice a-day. Tar-water may be uſed for the ſame purpoſe, or decoctions of any of the mild mucilaginous vegetables; as ſarſaparilla, marſhmallow-roots, *&c.* Infuſions of the bitter plants, as ground-ivy, the leſſer centaury, marſh trefoil, *&c.* are likewiſe beneficial. I have ſeen the peaſants in ſome parts of Britain expreſs the juice of the laſt-mentioned plant, and drink it with good effects in thoſe foul ſcorbutic eruptions with which they are often troubled in the ſpring ſeaſon.

The Harrowgate-water is certainly an excellent medicine in the ſcurvy. I have often ſeen patients who had been reduced to the moſt deplorable condition by that diſeaſe, greatly relieved by drinking the ſulphur-water, and bathing in it. The chalybeate-water may alſo be uſed with advantage, eſpecially with a view to brace the ſtomach after drinking the ſulphur-water, which, though it ſharpens the appetite, never fails to weaken the powers of digeſtion.

A SLIGHT degree of ſcurvy may be carried off by frequently ſucking a little of the juice of a bitter orange, or a lemon. When the diſeaſe affects the gums only, this practice, if continued for ſome time, will generally carry it off. We would however recommend the bitter orange as greatly preferable to lemon; it ſeems to be as good a medicine, and is not near ſo hurtful to the ſtomach. Perhaps our own ſorrel may be little inferior to either of them.

ALL kinds of ſallad are good in the ſcurvy, and ought to be eat very plentifully, as ſpinage, lettice, parſley, celery, endive, radiſh, dandelion, &c. It is amazing to ſee how ſoon freſh vegetables in the ſpring cure the brute animals of any ſcab or foulneſs which is upon their ſkins. It is reaſonable to ſuppoſe that their effects would be as great upon the human ſpecies, were they uſed in proper quantity for a ſufficient length of time.

THE LEPROSY, which was ſo common in this country long ago, ſeems to have been near akin to the ſcurvy. Perhaps its appearing ſo ſeldom now, may be owing to the inhabitants of Britain eating more vegetable food than formerly, living more upon tea and other diluting diet, uſing leſs ſalted meat, being more cleanly, better lodged and clothed, &c.——For the cure of this diſeaſe we would recommend the ſame courſe of diet and medicine as in the ſcurvy.

OF

OF THE SCROPHULA, OR KING'S EVIL.

THIS diſeaſe chiefly affects the glands, eſpecially thoſe of the neck. Children and young perſons of a ſedentary life are very ſubject to it. It is one of thoſe diſeaſes that may be removed by proper regimen, but ſeldom yields to medicine. The inhabitants of cold, damp, marſhy countries are moſt liable to the ſcrophula.

CAUSES.——This diſeaſe may proceed from a hereditary taint, infection from a ſcrophulous nurſe, *&c.* Children who have the misfortune to be born of ſickly parents, whoſe conſtitutions have been greatly injured by the French-pox, or other chronic diſeaſes, are apt to be affected with the ſcrophula. It may likewiſe proceed from ſuch diſeaſes as weaken the habit or vitiate the humours, as the ſmall-pox, meaſles, *&c.* Externa injuries, as blows, bruiſes, and the like, ſometimes produce ſcrophulous ulcers; but we have reaſon to believe, when this happens, that there has been a prediſpoſition in the habit to this diſeaſe. In ſhort, whatever tends to vitiate the humours or relax the ſolids, paves the way to the ſcrophula; as the want of proper exerciſe, too much heat or cold, confined air, unwholeſome food, bad water, the long uſe of poor, weak, watery aliments, the neglect of cleanlineſs, *&c.* Nothing tends more

to

to induce this diſeaſe in children than allowing them to continue long wet.

SYMPTOMS.——At firſt ſmall knots appear under the chin or behind the ears, which gradually increaſe in number and ſize, till they form one large hard tumour. This often continues for a long time without breaking, and when it does break, it only diſcharges a thin *ſanies* or watery humour. Other parts of the body are likewiſe liable to its attack, as the arm-pits, groins, feet, hands, eyes, breaſts, *&c.* Nor are the internal parts exempt from it. It often affects the lungs, liver or ſpleen; and I have frequently ſeen the glands of the myſentery greatly enlarged by it.

THESE obſtinate ulcers which break out upon the feet and hands with ſwelling, and little or no redneſs, are of the ſcrophulous kind. They ſeldom diſcharge good matter, and are exceeding difficult to cure. The *white ſwellings* of the joints ſeem likewiſe to be of this kind. They are with difficulty brought to a ſuppuration, and when opened they only diſcharge a thin ichor. There is not a more general ſymptom of the ſcrophula than a ſwelling of the upper lip and noſe.

REGIMEN.——As this diſeaſe proceeds, in a great meaſure, from relaxation, the diet ought to be generous and nouriſhing, but at the ſame time light and eaſy of digeſtion; as well-fermented bread, made of ſound grain, the fleſh and broth of

young animals, with now and then a glaſs of generous wine, or good ale. The air ought to be open, dry, and not too cold, and the patient ſhould take as much exerciſe as he can bear. This is of the utmoſt importance. Children who have enough of exerciſe are ſeldom troubled with the ſcrophula.

MEDICINE.——The vulgar are remarkably credulous with regard to the cure of the ſcrophula, many of them believing in the virtue of the royal touch, that of the ſeventh ſon, *&c.* The truth is, we know but little either of the nature or cure of this diſeaſe, and where reaſon or medicines fail, ſuperſtition always comes in their place. Hence it is, that in diſeaſes which are the moſt difficult to underſtand, we generally hear of the greateſt number of miraculous cures being performed. Here, however, the deception is eaſily accounted for. The ſcrophula, at a certain period of life, often cures of itſelf; and, if the patient happens to be touched about this time, the cure is imputed to the touch, and not to nature, who is really the phyſician. In the ſame way the inſignificant noſtrums of quacks and old women often gain applauſe when they deſerve none.

THERE is nothing more pernicious than the cuſtom of plying children in the ſcrophula with ſtrong purgative medicines. People imagine, it proceeds from humours which muſt be purged off, without conſidering, that theſe purgatives increaſe the

the relaxation and aggravate the diſeaſe. It has indeed been found that keeping the belly gently open, for ſome time, eſpecially with ſea-water, has a good effect; but this ſhould only be given in ſuch quantity as to procure one, or at moſt two ſtools every day. Bathing in the ſalt-water has likewiſe a very good effect, eſpecially in the warm ſeaſon. I have often known a courſe of bathing in ſalt-water, and drinking it in ſuch quantities as to keep the belly gently open, cure a ſcrophula, after many medicines had been tried in vain. When ſalt-water cannot be obtained, the patient may be bathed in freſh-water, and his belly kept open by ſmall quantities of ſalt and water, or ſome other mild purgative.

NEXT to cold bathing and drinking the ſalt-water, we would recommend the Peruvian bark. The cold bath may be uſed in ſummer, and the bark in winter. To an adult half a dram of the bark in powder may be given, in a glaſs of red wine, four or five times a-day. Children, and ſuch as cannot take it in ſubſtance, may uſe the decoction *.

* The decoction may be made by boiling an ounce of Peruvian bark and a dram of Winter's bark, both groſsly powdered, in an Engliſh quart of water to a pint: towards the end half an ounce of ſliced liquorice-root, and a handful of raiſins may be added, which will both render the decoction leſs diſagreeable, and make it take up more of the bark. The liquor muſt be ſtrained, and two, three, or four table-ſpoonfuls, according to the age of the patient, given three times a-day.

THE

Moffat and Harrowgate waters, eſpecially the ter, are likewiſe very proper medicines in the rophula. They ought not however to be drank in large quantities, but ſhould be taken ſo as to keep the belly gently open, and muſt be uſed for a conſiderable time.

EXTERNAL applications are of little uſe. Before the tumour breaks, nothing ought to be applied to it, unleſs a piece of flannel, or ſomething to keep it warm. After it breaks, the ſore may be dreſſed with ſome digeſtive ointment. What I have always found to anſwer beſt, was the yellow baſilicon mixed with about a ſixth or eighth part of its weight of red precipitate of mercury. The ſore may be dreſſed with this twice a-day; and if it be very fungous, and does not digeſt well, a larger proportion of the precipitate may be added.

MEDICINES which mitigate this diſeaſe, though they do not cure it, are not to be deſpiſed. If the patient can be kept alive by any means till he arrives at the age of puberty, he has a great chance to get well; but, if he does not recover at this time, in all probability he never will.

THERE is no malady which parents are ſo apt to communicate to their offſpring as the ſcrophula, for which reaſon people ought to beware of marrying into families affected with this diſeaſe.

FOR the means of preventing the ſcrophula, we muſt refer the reader to the obſervations on nurſing, at the beginning of the book.

OF

OF THE ITCH.

THOUGH this diſeaſe is commonly communicated by infection, yet it ſeldom prevails where due regard is paid to cleanlineſs, freſh air, and wholeſome diet. It generally appears in form of ſmall watery puſtules, firſt about the wriſts, or between the fingers; afterwards it affects the arms, legs, and thighs, *&c.* Theſe puſtules are attended with an intolerable itching, eſpecially when the patient is warm a-bed, or ſits by the fire. Sometimes indeed the ſkin is covered with large blotches or ſcabs, and at other times with a white ſcurf, or ſcaly eruption. This laſt is called the dry itch, and is the moſt difficult to cure.

THE itch is ſeldom a dangerous diſeaſe, unleſs when it is rendered ſo by neglect or improper treatment. If it be ſuffered to continue too long, it may vitiate the whole maſs of humours; and, if it be ſuddenly drove in, without proper evacuations, it may occaſion fevers, inflammations of the viſcera, or other internal diſorders.

THE beſt medicine yet known for the itch is ſulphur, which ought to be uſed both externally and internally. The parts moſt affected may be rubbed with an ointment made of the flowers of ſulphur two ounces; crude ſal ammoniac, finely powdered, two drams; hog's lard, or butter, four ounces. If a ſcruple or half a dram of the

the eſſence of lemon be added, it will entirely take away the diſagreeable ſmell. About the bulk of a nutmeg of this may be rubbed upon the extremities, at bed-time, twice or thrice a-week. It is ſeldom neceſſary to rub the whole body; but when it is, it ought not to be done all at once, but by turns, as it is dangerous to ſtop too many pores at the ſame time.

BEFORE the patient begins to uſe the ointment, he ought, if he be of a full habit, to bleed and take a purge or two. It will likewiſe be proper, during the uſe of it, to take every night and morning as much of the flower of brimſtone, and cream of tartar, in a little treacle or new-milk, as will keep the belly gently open. He ſhould beware of catching cold, ſhould wear more clothes than uſual, and take every thing warm. The ſame clothes, the linen excepted, ought to be worn all the time of uſing the ointment; and ſuch clothes as have been worn while the patient was under the diſeaſe, are not to be uſed again, unleſs they have been fumigated with brimſtone, and thoroughly cleaned, otherwiſe they will communicate the infection anew.

I NEVER knew brimſtone, if uſed as directed above, fail to cure the itch; and I have reaſon to believe, that, if duly perſiſted in, it never will fail; but if it be only uſed once or twice, and cleanlineſs neglected, it is no wonder if the diſorder returns. The quantity of ointment mentioned

tioned above will generally be ſufficient for the cure of one perſon; but, if any ſymptoms of the diſeaſe ſhould appear again, the medicine may be repeated. It is both more ſafe and efficacious when perſiſted in for a conſiderable time, than when a large quantity is applied at once.

People ought to be extremely cautious leſt they take other eruptions for the itch; as the ſtoppage of theſe may be attended with fatal conſequences. Many of the eruptive diſorders to which children are liable, have a near reſemblance to this diſeaſe; and I have often known infants killed by being rubbed with greaſy ointments that made theſe eruptions ſtrike ſuddenly in, which nature had thrown out to preſerve the patient's life, or prevent ſome other malady.

Much miſchief is likewiſe done by the uſe of mercury in this diſeaſe. Some perſons are ſo fool-hardy as to waſh the parts affected with a ſtrong ſolution of the corroſive ſublimate. Others uſe the mercurial ointment, without taking the leaſt care either to avoid cold, keep the belly open, or obſerve a proper regimen. The conſequences of ſuch conduct may be eaſily gueſſed. I have known even the mercurial girdles produce tragical effects, and would adviſe every perſon, as he values his health, to beware how he uſes them. Mercury ought never to be uſed as a medicine without the greateſt care. Ignorant people look upon

upon theſe girdles as a kind of charm, without conſidering that the mercury enters the blood.

As ſulphur is both the moſt ſafe and efficacious medicine for the itch, we ſhall not recommend any other. Other medicines may be uſed by perſons of ſkill, but are not to be ventured upon by the ignorant.

Those who would avoid this deteſtable diſeaſe ought to beware of infected perſons, to uſe wholeſome food, and to ſtudy univerſal cleanlineſs *.

* The itch is now by cleanlineſs baniſhed from every genteel family in Britain. It ſtill however prevails among the poorer ſort of peaſants in Scotland, and yet more among the manufacturers in England. Theſe are not only ſufficient to keep the ſeeds of the diſeaſe alive, but to ſpread the infection among others. It were to be wiſhed that ſome effectual method could be deviſed for extirpating it altogether. Several country clergymen have told me, that by getting ſuch as were infected cured, and ſtrongly recommending an attention to cleanlineſs, they have baniſhed the itch entirely out of their pariſhes. Why might not others do the ſame if they would?

CHAP. XL.

OF THE ASTHMA.

THE aſthma is a diſeaſe of the lungs, which ſeldom admits of a cure. Perſons in the decline of life are moſt liable to it. It is diſtinguiſhed into the moiſt and dry, or humoural and nervous. The former is attended with expectoration or ſpitting; but in the latter the patient ſeldom ſpits, unleſs ſometimes a little tough phlegm by the mere force of coughing.

CAUSES.——The aſthma is ſometimes hereditary. It may likewiſe proceed from a bad formation of the breaſt; the fumes of metals or minerals taken into the lungs; violent exerciſe, eſpecially running; the obſtruction of cuſtomary evacuations, as the menſes, hæmorrhoids, *&c.*; the ſudden retroceſſion of the gout, or ſtriking in of eruptions, as the ſmall-pox, meaſles, *&c.*; violent paſſions of the mind, as ſudden fear, or ſurpriſe. In a word, the diſeaſe may proceed from any cauſe that either impedes the circulation of the blood through the lungs, or prevents their being duly expanded by the air.

SYMPTOMS.——An aſthma is known by a quick laborious breathing, which is generally performed with a kind of wheezing noiſe. Some-

times the difficulty of breathing is ſo great that the patient is obliged to keep an erect poſture, otherwiſe he is in danger of being ſuffocated. A fit or paroxyſm of the aſthma generally happens after a perſon has been expoſed to cold eaſterly winds, or has been abroad in thick foggy weather, or has got wet, or continued long in a damp place under ground, or the like.

The paroxyſm is commonly uſhered in with a liſtleſſneſs, want of ſleep, hoarſeneſs, a cough, belching of wind, a ſenſe of heavineſs about the breaſt, and difficulty of breathing. To theſe ſucceed heat, fever, pain of the head, ſickneſs and nauſea, great oppreſſion of the breaſt, palpitation of the heart, a weak and ſometimes intermitting pulſe, an involuntary flow of tears, bilious vomitings, &c. All the ſymptoms grow worſe towards night; the patient is eaſier when up than in bed, and is very deſirous of cool air.

REGIMEN.——The food ought to be light, and of eaſy digeſtion. Boiled meats are to be preferred to roaſted, and the fleſh of young animals to that of old. All windy food, and whatever is apt to ſwell in the ſtomach, is to be avoided. Light puddings, white broths, and ripe fruits baked, boiled or roaſted, are proper. Strong liquor of all kinds, eſpecially malt-liquor, is hurtful. The patient ſhould eat a very light ſupper, or rather none at all. His clothing ſhould be warm, eſpecially in the winter ſeaſon. As all

diſorders of the breaſt are much relieved by keeping the feet warm, and promoting the perſpiration, a flannel ſhirt or waiſtcoat, and thick ſhoes will be of ſingular ſervice.

But nothing is of ſo great importance in the aſthma as pure and moderately warm air. Aſthmatic people can ſeldom bear either the cloſe heavy air of a large town, or the ſharp, keen atmoſphere of a bleak hilly country; a medium between theſe is therefore to be choſen. The air near a large town is often better than at a diſtance, provided the patient be removed ſo far as not to be affected by the ſmoke. Some aſthmatic patients indeed breathe eaſier in town than in the country; but this is ſeldom the caſe, eſpecially in towns where much coal is burnt. Aſthmatic perſons who are obliged to be in town all day, ought, at leaſt, to ſleep out of it. Even this will often prove of great ſervice. Thoſe who can afford it ought to travel into a warmer climate. Many aſthmatic perſons who cannot live in Britain, enjoy very good health in the ſouth of France, Portugal, Spain, or Italy.

Exercise is likewiſe of very great importance in the aſthma, as it promotes the digeſtion, circulation of the blood, &c. The blood of aſthmatic perſons is ſeldom duly prepared, owing to the proper action of the lungs being impeded. For this reaſon ſuch people ought daily to take as much exerciſe, either on foot, horſeback, or in a carriage, as they can bear.

MEDICINE.

MEDICINE.——Almoſt all that can be done by medicine in this diſeaſe, is to relieve the patient when ſeized with a violent fit. This indeed requires the greateſt expedition, as the diſeaſe often proves ſuddenly fatal. In the paroxyſm or fit, the body is generally bound, a clyſter ought therefore to be adminiſtered, and if there be occaſion, it may be repeated two or three times. The patient's feet and legs ought to be immerſed in warm water, and afterwards rubbed with a warm hand, or dry cloth. If there be a violent ſpaſm about the breaſt or ſtomach, warm fomentations, or bladders filled with warm milk and water, may be applied to the part affected, and warm cataplaſms to the ſoles of the feet. The patient muſt drink freely of diluting liquors, and may take a tea-ſpoonful of the tincture of caſtor and ſaffron mixed together, in a cup of valerian-tea, twice or thrice a-day. Sometimes a vomit has a very good effect, and ſnatches the patient, as it were, from the jaws of death. This however will be more ſafe after other evacuations have been premiſed.

In the moiſt aſthma, ſuch things as promote expectoration or ſpitting ought to be uſed; as the ſyrup of ſquills, gum-ammoniac, and ſuch like. A common ſpoonful of the ſyrup or oxymeil of ſquills, mixed with an equal quantity of cinnamon-water, may be taken three or four times a-day; and four or five pills made of equal parts of aſafœtida and gum-ammoniac may be taken every night at bed-time.

For the convulſive or nervous aſthma, anti-ſpaſmodics and bracers are the moſt proper medicines. The patient may take a tea-ſpoonful of the paregoric elixir twice a-day. The Peruvian bark is likewiſe proper in this caſe. It may be taken in ſubſtance, or infuſed in wine. In ſhort, every thing that braces the nerves, or takes off ſpaſm, may be of uſe in a nervous aſthma. It is often relieved by the uſe of aſſes milk; I have likewiſe known cows milk drank warm in the morning have a very good effect in this caſe.

In every ſpecies of aſthma, ſetons and iſſues have a good effect; they may either be ſet in the back or ſide, and ſhould never be allowed to dry up. We ſhall here, once for all, obſerve, that not only in the aſthma, but in moſt chronic diſeaſes, iſſues are extremely proper. They are both a ſafe and efficacious remedy; and though they do not always cure the diſeaſe, yet they will often prolong the patient's life.

CHAP. XLI.

OF THE APOPLEXY.

THE apoplexy is a ſudden loſs of ſenſe and motion, wherein the patient is to all appearance dead; the heart and lungs however ſtill continue to move. This diſeaſe, by a little care, might often be prevented, but can ſeldom be cured. It chiefly attacks ſedentary perſons of a groſs habit, who uſe a rich and plentiful diet, and indulge in ſtrong liquors. People in the decline of life are moſt ſubject to the apoplexy. It prevails moſt in winter, eſpecially in long rainy ſeaſons, and very low ſtates of the barometer.

CAUSES.——The immediate cauſe of an apoplexy is a compreſſion of the brain, occaſioned by an effuſion of blood, or a collection of watery humours. The former is called a *ſanguine*, and the latter a *ſerous apoplexy*. It may be occaſioned by any thing that increaſes the circulation towards the brain, or prevents the return of the blood from the head; as intenſe ſtudy; violent paſſions *; viewing

* I knew a woman who in a violent fit of anger was ſeized with a ſanguine apoplexy. She at firſt complained of extreme pain, *as if daggers had been thruſt through her head, as ſhe expreſſed it.* Afterwards ſhe became comatoſe, her pulſe ſunk very

viewing objects for a long time obliquely; wearing any thing too tight about the neck; a rich and luxurious diet; ſuppreſſion of urine; ſuffering the body to cool ſuddenly after having been very hot; continuing long in a warm bath; the exceſſive uſe of ſpiceries, or high-ſeaſoned food; exceſs of venery; the ſudden ſtriking in of any eruption; ſuffering iſſues, ſetons, *&c.* ſuddenly to dry up, or the ſtoppage of any cuſtomary evacuation; a mercurial ſalivation puſhed too far, or ſuddenly checked by cold; wounds or bruiſes on the head; long expoſure to exceſſive cold; poiſonous exhalations, *&c.*

SYMPTOMS, and method of cure.——The uſual forerunners of an apoplexy are giddineſs, pain and ſwimming of the head; loſs of memory; drowſineſs; noiſe in the ears; the nightmare; a ſpontaneous flux of tears, and laborious reſpiration. When perſons of an apoplectic make obſerve theſe ſymptoms, they have reaſon to fear the approach of a fit, and ſhould endeavour to prevent it by bleeding, a ſlender diet, and opening medicines.

In the ſanguine apoplexy, if the patient does not die ſuddenly, the countenance appears florid,

low, and was exceeding ſlow. By bleeding, bliſtering, and other evacuations, ſhe was kept alive for about a fortnight. When her head was opened, a large quantity of extravaſated blood was found in the left ventricle of the brain.

the

the face is ſwelled or puffed up, and the blood-veſſels, eſpecially about the neck and temples, are turgid; the pulſe beats ſtrong; the eyes are prominent and fixed, and the breathing is difficult, and performed with a ſnorting noiſe. The excrements and urine are often voided ſpontaneouſly, and the patient is ſometimes ſeized with a vomiting.

In this ſpecies of apoplexy every method muſt be taken to leſſen the force of the circulation towards the head. The patient ſhould be kept perfectly eaſy and cool. His head ſhould be raiſed pretty high, and his feet ſuffered to hang down. His clothes ought to be looſened, eſpecially about the neck, and freſh air admitted into his chamber. His garters ſhould be tied pretty tight, by which means the motion of the blood from the lower extremities will be retarded. As ſoon as the patient is placed in a proper poſture, he ſhould be bled pretty freely in the neck or arm, and, if there be occaſion, the operation may be repeated in two or three hours. A laxative clyſter with plenty of ſweet oil, or freſh butter and a large ſpoonful of common ſalt in it, may be adminiſtered every two hours; and bliſtering plaſters applied betwixt the ſhoulders, and to the calves of the legs.

As ſoon as the ſymptoms are a little abated, and the patient is able to ſwallow, he ought to drink freely of ſome diluting opening liquor, as a decoction of tamarinds and liquorice, cream-tartar-whey,

whey, or common whey with cream of tartar diſſolved in it. Or he may take any cooling purge, as Glauber's ſalts, or manna diſſolved in an infuſion of ſenna, or the like. All ſpirits and other ſtrong liquors are to be avoided. Even volatile ſalts held to the noſe do miſchief. Vomits, for the ſame reaſon, ought not to be given, nor any thing that may increaſe the motion of the blood towards the head.

In the ſerous apoplexy, the ſymptoms are nearly the ſame, only the pulſe is not ſo ſtrong, the countenance is leſs florid, and the breathing leſs difficult. Bleeding is not ſo neceſſary here, as in the former caſe. It may however generally be performed once with ſafety and advantage, but ſhould not be repeated. The patient ſhould be placed in the ſame poſture as directed above, and ſhould have bliſtering plaſters applied, and receive opening clyſters in the ſame manner. Purges are here likewiſe neceſſary, and the patient may drink ſtrong balm tea. If he be inclined to ſweat, it ought to be promoted by drinking ſmall wine-whey, or an infuſion of carduus benedictus. A plentiful ſweat kept up for a conſiderable time, has often carried off a ſerous apoplexy.

When apoplectic ſymptoms proceed from opium, or other narcotic ſubſtances taken into the ſtomach, vomits are neceſſary. The patient is generally relieved as ſoon as he has diſcharged the poiſon in this way.

Persons

Persons of an apoplectic make, or thoſe who have been attacked by it, ought to uſe a very ſpare and ſlender diet, avoiding all ſtrong liquors, ſpiceries, and high-ſeaſoned food. They ought likewiſe to guard againſt all violent paſſions, and to avoid the extremes of heat and cold. The head ſhould be ſhaved, and daily waſhed with cold water. The feet ought to be kept warm, and never ſuffered to continue long wet. The belly muſt, by all means, be kept open either by food or medicine, and a little blood may be let every ſpring and fall. Exerciſe ſhould by no means be neglected; but it ought to be taken in moderation. Nothing has a more happy effect in preventing an apoplexy than iſſues or perpetual bliſters; great care however muſt be taken not to ſuffer them to dry up, without opening others in their ſtead. Apoplectic perſons ought never to go to reſt with a full ſtomach, or to lie with their heads low, or wear any thing too tight about their necks.

CHAP.

CHAP. XLII.

OF COSTIVENESS.

WE do not here mean to treat of thoſe aſtrictions of the bowels which are the ſymptoms of diſeaſes, as of the colic, the iliac-paſſion, &c. but only to take notice of that infrequency of ſtools which ſometimes happens, and which in ſome particular conſtitutions may occaſion diſeaſes.

COSTIVENESS may proceed from an exceſſive heat of the liver; drinking rough red wines, or other aſtringent liquors; too much exerciſe, eſpecially on horſeback: It may likewiſe proceed from a long uſe of cold inſipid food, which does not ſufficiently ſtimulate the inteſtines. Sometimes it is owing to the bile not deſcending to the inteſtines, as in the jaundice; and at other times it proceeds from diſeaſes of the inteſtines themſelves, as a palſy, ſpaſms, tumors, a cold dry ſtate of the inteſtines, &c.

EXCESSIVE coſtiveneſs is apt to occaſion pains of the head, vomiting, colics, &c. It is peculiarly hurtful to hypochondriac and hyſteric perſons, as it generates wind and other grievous ſymptoms.

PERSONS

Persons who are generally coſtive ſhould live upon a moiſtening and laxative diet, as roaſted or boiled apples, pears, ſtewed prunes, raiſins, gruels with currants, butter, honey, and ſugar, *&c.* Broths with ſpinage, leeks, and other ſoft pot-herbs, are likewiſe proper. Rye-bread, or that which is made of a mixture of wheat and rye together, ought to be eat. No perſon troubled with coſtiveneſs ſhould ate wheat bread alone, eſpecially that which is made of fine flower. The beſt bread for keeping the belly ſoluble is what in ſome parts of England they call *meſlin*. It is made of equal parts of wheat and rye; or more commonly of two parts of the former to one of the latter.

Costiveness is increaſed by keeping the body too warm, and by every thing that promotes the perſpiration; as wearing flannel, lying too long a-bed, *&c.* Intenſe thought, and a ſedentary life, are likewiſe hurtful. All the ſecretions and excretions are promoted by moderate exerciſe without doors, and by a gay, cheerful, ſprightly temper of mind.

The drink ſhould be of an opening quality. All ardent ſpirits, auſtere and aſtringent wines, as port, claret, *&c.* ought to be avoided. Malt-liquor that is fine, and of a moderate ſtrength, is very proper. Butter-milk, whey, and other watery liquors, are likewiſe proper, and may be drank in turns, as the patient's inclination directs.

Those who are troubled with coſtiveneſs ought, if poſſible, to remedy it by diet, as the conſtant

uſe of medicines for that purpoſe is attended with many inconveniencies, and often with bad conſequences *. I never knew any one get into a habit of taking medicine for keeping the belly open, who could leave it off. In time the cuſtom becomes neceſſary, and generally ends in a total relaxation of the bowels, indigeſtion, loſs of appetite, waſting of the ſtrength, and death.

When the belly cannot be kept open without medicine, we would recommend gentle doſes of rhubarb to be taken twice or thrice a-week. This

* The learned Dr. Arbuthnot adviſes thoſe who are troubled with coſtiveneſs to uſe animal oils, as freſh butter, cream, marrow, fat broths, eſpecially thoſe made of the internal parts of animals, as the liver, heart, midriff, &c. He likewiſe recommends the expreſſed oils of mild vegetables, as olives, almonds, paſtaches, and the fruits themſelves; all oily and mild fruits, as figs; decoctions of mealy vegetables; theſe lubricate the inteſtines; ſome ſaponaceous ſubſtances which ſtimulate gently, as honey, hydromel, or boiled honey and water, unrefined ſugar, &c.

The doctor obſerves, that ſuch lenitive ſubſtances are proper for perſons of dry atrabilarian conſtitutions, who are ſubject to aſtriction of the belly, and the piles, and will operate when ſtronger medicinal ſubſtances are ſometimes ineffectual; but that ſuch lenitive diet hurts thoſe whoſe bowels are weak and lax. He likewiſe obſerves, that all watery ſubſtances are lenitive, and that even common water, whey, ſour milk, and butter-milk have that effect;——That new milk, eſpecially aſſes milk, ſtimulates ſtill more when it ſours on the ſtomach; and that whey turned ſour will purge ſtrongly;—That moſt garden fruits are likewiſe laxative; and that ſome of them, as grapes, will throw ſuch as take them immoderately, into a cholera morbus, or incurable diarrhœa.

is

is not near ſo injurious to the ſtomach as aloes, jalap, or the other draſtic purgatives ſo much in uſe. Infuſions of ſenna and manna may likewiſe be taken, or half an ounce of ſoluble tartar diſſolved in water-gruel. About the ſize of a nutmeg of lenitive electuary taken twice or thrice a-day, generally anſwers the purpoſe very well.

WANT OF APPETITE.

This may proceed from a foul ſtomach; indigeſtion; the want of free air and exerciſe; grief; fear; anxiety, or any of the depreſſing paſſions; exceſſive heat; the uſe of ſtrong broths, fat meats, or any thing that palls the appetite, or is hard of digeſtion; the immoderate uſe of ſtrong liquors, tea, tobacco, opium, *&c.*

The patient ought, if poſſible, to make choice of an open dry air; to take exerciſe daily on horſeback or in a carriage; to riſe betimes; and to avoid all intenſe thought. He ſhould uſe a diet of eaſy digeſtion; and ſhould avoid exceſſive heat and great fatigue.

If want of appetite proceeds from errors in diet, or any other part of the patient's regimen, it ought to be changed. If nauſea and reachings ſhew that the ſtomach is loaded with crudities, a vomit will be of ſervice. After this a gentle purge or two of rhubarb, or any of the bitter purging ſalts, may be taken. The patient ought next to uſe an infuſion in wine of ſome of the

ſtomachic

ſtomachic bitters; as gentian-root, Peruvian bark, or orange-peel. He may alſo eat orange-peel or ginger candied.

THOUGH gentle evacuations be neceſſary, all ſtrong purges and vomits are to be avoided, as they weaken the ſtomach and hurt digeſtion. After proper evacuations, bitter elixirs, and tinctures with aromatics may be uſed. The patient may take, twice a-day, a common ſpoonful of the ſtomachic tincture; or, if he be coſtive, the ſame quantity of the bitter tincture of rhubarb. Elixir of vitriol is an excellent medicine in moſt caſes of indigeſtion, weakneſs of the ſtomach, or want of appetite. Twenty or thirty drops of it may be taken twice or thrice a-day in a glaſs of wine or water. It may likewiſe be mixed with the tincture of the bark, two drams of the former to an ounce of the latter, and a tea-ſpoonful of it taken in wine or water, as above.

THE chalybeate-waters, if drank in moderation, are generally of conſiderable ſervice in this caſe. The ſalt-water has likewiſe good effects; but it muſt not be uſed too freely. The waters of Harrowgate, Scarſborough, Moffat, and moſt other ſpaws in Britain, may be uſed with advantage. We would adviſe all who are afflicted with indigeſtion and want of appetite, to repair to theſe places of public rendezvous. The very change of air, and the cheerful company, will be of ſervice; not to mention the exerciſe, diſſipation, amuſements, &c.

OF

OF THE HEART-BURN.

WHAT is commonly called the *heart-burn* is not a diſeaſe of that organ, but an uneaſy ſenſation of heat or acrimony about the pit of the ſtomach, which is ſometimes attended with anxiety, nauſea, and vomiting.

IT may proceed from debility of the ſtomach, indigeſtion, bile, the abounding of an acid in the ſtomach, *&c.* Perſons who are liable to this complaint ought to avoid ſtale liquors, acids, windy or greaſy aliments, and ſhould never uſe violent exerciſe ſoon after a plentiful meal. I know many perſons who never fail to have the heart-burn, if they ride ſoon after dinner, provided they have drank ale, wine, or any fermented liquor; but are never troubled with it when they have drunk rum or brandy and water without any ſugar or acid.

WHEN the heart-burn proceeds from debility of the ſtomach or indigeſtion, the patient ought to take a doſe or two of rhubarb; afterwards he may uſe infuſions of the Peruvian bark, or any other of the ſtomachic bitters, in wine or brandy. Exerciſe in the open air will likewiſe be of uſe, and every thing that promotes digeſtion.

WHEN bilious humours occaſion the heart-burn, a tea-ſpoonful of the ſweet ſpirit of nitre in a glaſs of water, or a cup of tea, will generally give

eaſe. If it proceeds from the uſe of greaſy aliments, a dram of brandy or rum may be taken.

If acidity or ſourneſs of the ſtomach occaſions the heart-burn, abſorbents are the proper medicines. In this caſe an ounce of powdered chalk, half an ounce of fine ſugar, and a quarter of an ounce of gum-arabic, may be mixed in an Engliſh quart of water, and a tea-cupful of it taken as often as is neceſſary. Such as do not chuſe chalk may take a tea-ſpoonful of prepared oyſter-ſhells, or of the powder called crabs-eyes, in a glaſs of cinnamon or peppermint water. But the ſafeſt and beſt abſorbent is *magneſia alba*. This not only acts as an abſorbent, but likewiſe as a purgative; whereas chalk, and other abſorbents of that kind, are apt to lie in the inteſtines, and occaſion obſtructions. This powder is not diſagreeable, and may be taken in a cup of tea, or a glaſs of mint-water. A large tea-ſpoonful is the uſual doſe; but it may be taken in a much larger quantity when there is occaſion.

If wind be the cauſe of this complaint, the moſt proper medicines are thoſe called carminatives; as aniſeeds, juniper-berries, ginger, cannella alba, cardamom ſeeds, *&c.* Theſe may either be chewed, or infuſed in ſpirits or wine. One of the ſafeſt medicines of this kind is the tincture made by infuſing an ounce of rhubarb, and a quarter of an ounce of the leſſer cardamom ſeeds, in an Engliſh pint of brandy. After this has digeſted for

for two or three days, it muſt be ſtrained, and four ounces of white ſugar-candy added to it. It muſt ſtand to digeſt a ſecond time till the ſugar be diſſolved. A table-ſpoonful of it may be taken occaſionally for a doſe.

I HAVE frequently known the heart-burn cured, eſpecially in pregnant women, by chewing green tea.

CHAP. XLIII.

OF NERVOUS DISEASES.

OF ALL diſeaſes incident to mankind, thoſe of the nervous kind are the moſt complicated and difficult to cure. A volume would not be ſufficient to point out their various ſymptoms. They imitate almoſt every diſeaſe; and are ſeldom alike in two different perſons, or even in the ſame perſon at different times. Proteus-like, they are continually changing ſhape; and upon every freſh attack, the patient thinks he feels ſymptoms which he never experienced before. Nor do they only affect the body; the mind likewiſe ſuffers, and is often thereby rendered extremely weak and peeviſh. The low ſpirits, timorouſneſs, melancholy, and fickleneſs of temper which generally attend nervous diſorders, induce many people to believe, that they are entirely diſeaſes of the mind; but this change of temper is rather a conſequence, than the cauſe of nervous diſeaſes.

CAUSES.——Every thing that tends to relax or weaken the body, diſpoſes it to nervous diſeaſes, as indolence, exceſſive venery, drinking too much tea, or other weak watery liquors, frequent bleeding, purging, vomiting, &c. Whatever hurts the digeſtion, or prevents the proper aſſimilation of the aliment, has likewiſe this effect; as long faſting,

ing, exceſs in eating or drinking, the uſe of windy, crude, or unwholeſome aliments, an unfavourable poſture of the body, &c.

Nervous diſorders often proceed from affections of the mind; as grief, diſappointments, anxiety, intenſe ſtudy, &c. Indeed few ſtudious perſons are entirely free from them. Nor is this at all to be wondered at; intenſe thinking not only preys upon the ſpirits, but prevents the perſon from taking proper exerciſe, by which means the digeſtion is impaired, the nouriſhment prevented, the ſolids relaxed, and the whole maſs of humours vitiated. Grief and diſappointment likewiſe produce the ſame effects. I have known more nervous patients, who dated the commencement of their diſorders from the loſs of a huſband, a favourite child, or from ſome diſappointment in life, than from any other cauſe. In a word, whatever weakens the body, or depreſſes the ſpirits, may occaſion nervous diſorders, as unwholeſome air, want of ſleep, great fatigue, diſagreeable apprehenſions, vexation, &c.

SYMPTOMS.—We ſhall only mention ſome of the moſt general ſymptoms of theſe diſorders, as it would be both an uſeleſs and impracticable taſk to point out the whole. They generally begin with windy inflations or diſtenſions of the ſtomach and inteſtines; the appetite and digeſtion are uſually bad; yet ſometimes there is an uncommon craving for food, and a quick digeſtion. The food often turns ſour on the ſtomach; and the

patient is troubled with vomiting of clear water, tough phlegm, or a blackiſh-coloured liquor reſembling the grounds of coffee. Excruciating pains are often felt about the navel, attended with a rumbling or murmuring noiſe in the bowels. The belly is ſometimes looſe, but more commonly bound, which occaſions a retention of wind and great uneaſineſs.

The urine is ſometimes in ſmall quantity, at other times very copious and quite clear. There is a great ſtraitneſs of the breaſt, with difficulty of breathing; violent palpitations of the heart; ſudden fluſhings of heat in various parts of the body; at other times a ſenſe of cold, as if water were poured on them; flying pains in the arms and limbs; pains in the back and belly, reſembling thoſe occaſioned by gravel; the pulſe very variable, ſometimes uncommonly ſlow, and at other times very quick; yawning, the hiccup, frequent ſighings and a ſenſe of ſuffocation, as if from a ball or lump in the throat; alternate fits of crying and convulſive laughing; the ſleep is unſound, and ſeldom refreſhing; and the patient is often troubled with the night-mare.

As the diſeaſe increaſes, the patient is moleſted with headachs, cramps, and fixt pains in various parts of the body; the eyes are clouded, and often affected with pain and dryneſs; there is a noiſe in the ears, and often a dulneſs of hearing; in ſhort, the whole animal functions are impaired. The mind is diſturbed on the moſt trivial occaſions,

and is hurried into the moſt perverſe commotions, inquietudes, terror, ſadneſs, anger, diffidence, &c. The patient is apt to entertain wild imaginations, and extravagant fancies; the memory becomes weak, and the reaſon fails.

NOTHING is more characteriſtic of this diſeaſe than a conſtant dread of death. This renders theſe unhappy perſons who labour under it peeviſh, fickle, impatient, and apt to run from one phyſician to another; which is one reaſon why they ſeldom reap any benefit from medicine, as they have not ſufficient reſolution to perſiſt in any one courſe till it has time to produce its proper effects. They are likewiſe apt to imagine that they labour under diſeaſes from which they are quite free, and are very angry if any one attempts to ſet them right, or laugh them out of their ridiculous notions.

REGIMEN.——Perſons afflicted with nervous diſeaſes ought never to faſt long. Their food ſhould be ſolid and nouriſhing, but of eaſy digeſtion. Fat meats, and heavy ſauces, are hurtful. All exceſs ſhould be carefully avoided. They ought never to eat more at a time than they can eaſily digeſt: but if they feel themſelves weak and faint between meals, they ought to eat a bit of bread, and drink a glaſs of wine. Heavy ſuppers are to be avoided. Though wine in exceſs enfeebles the body, and impairs the faculties of the mind, yet taken in moderation, it ſtrengthens the ſtomach, and promotes digeſtion. Wine and wa-

ter is a very proper drink at meals: but if wine ſours on the ſtomach, or the patient is much troubled with wind, brandy and water will anſwer better. Every thing that is windy, or hard of digeſtion, muſt be avoided. All weak and warm liquors are hurtful, as tea, coffee, punch, *&c.* People may find a temporary relief in the uſe of theſe, but they always increaſe the malady, as they weaken the ſtomach, and hurt digeſtion. Above all things, drams are to be avoided. Whatever immediate eaſe the patient may feel from the uſe of ardent ſpirits, they are ſure to aggravate the malady, and prove certain poiſons at laſt. Theſe cautions are the more neceſſary, as moſt nervous people are peculiarly fond of tea and ardent ſpirits; to the uſe of which many of them fall a victim.

Exercise in nervous diſorders is ſuperior to all medicines. Riding on horſeback is generally eſteemed the beſt, as it gives motion to the whole body, without fatiguing it. I have known ſome patients, however, with whom walking agreed better, and others who were moſt benefited by riding in a carriage. Every one ought to uſe that which he finds moſt beneficial. Long ſea-voyages have an excellent effect; and to thoſe who can afford to take them, and have ſufficient reſolution, we would by all means recommend this courſe. Even change of place, and the ſight of new objects, by diverting the mind, have a great tendency to remove theſe complaints. For this reaſon a long

long journey, or a voyage, is of much more advantage than riding ſhort journeys near home.

A COOL and dry air is proper, as it braces and invigorates the whole body. Nothing tends more to relax and enervate than hot air, eſpecially that which is rendered ſo by great fires, or ſtoves in ſmall apartments. But when the ſtomach or bowels are weak, the body ought to be well guarded againſt cold, eſpecially in winter, by wearing a thin flannel waiſtcoat next the ſkin. This will keep up an equal perſpiration, and defend the alimentary canal from many impreſſions, to which it would otherwiſe be ſubject, upon every ſudden change from warm to cold weather. Rubbing the body frequently with a fleſh-bruſh, or a coarſe linen cloth, is likewiſe beneficial, as it promotes the circulation, perſpiration, *&c.* Perſons who have weak nerves ought to riſe early, and take exerciſe before breakfaſt, as lying too long a-bed cannot fail to relax the ſolids. They ought likewiſe to be diverted, and to be kept as eaſy and cheerful as poſſible; as nothing hurts the nervous ſyſtem, or weakens the digeſtive powers more than fear, grief, or anxiety.

MEDICINES.——Though nervous diſeaſes are ſeldom radically cured, yet their ſymptoms may ſometimes be alleviated, and the patient's life rendered, at leaſt, more comfortable, by proper medicines.

WHEN the patient is coſtive, he ought to take a little rhubarb, or ſome other mild purgative, and

and ſhould never ſuffer his belly to be long bound. All ſtrong and violent purgatives are however to be avoided, as aloes, jalap, *&c.* I have generally ſeen an infuſion of ſenna and rhubarb in brandy anſwer very well. This may be made of any ſtrength, and taken in ſuch quantity as the patient finds neceſſary. When digeſtion is bad, or the ſtomach relaxed and weak, an infuſion of the Peruvian bark and other bitters may be uſed with advantage *.

Few things tend more to ſtrengthen the nervous ſyſtem than cold bathing. This practice, if duly perſiſted in, will produce very extraordinary effects; but when the liver or other *viſcera* are obſtructed, or otherwiſe unſound, the cold bath is improper. The moſt proper ſeaſons for it are ſummer and autumn. It will be ſufficient, eſpecially for perſons of a ſpare habit, to go into the cold bath three or four times a-week. If the patient be weakened by it, or feels chilly for a long time after coming out, it is improper.

In patients afflicted with wind, I have always obſerved the greateſt benefit from the acid elixir of vitriol. It may be taken in the quantity of fifteen, twenty, or thirty drops, twice or thrice

* Take of Peruvian bark an ounce, gentian-root, orange-peel and coriander-ſeed, of each half an ounce; let theſe ingredients be all bruiſed in a mortar, and infuſed in a bottle of brandy or whiſky, for the ſpace of five or ſix days. A table-ſpoonful of the ſtrained liquor may be taken in half a glaſs of water an hour before breakfaſt, dinner and ſupper.

a-day

a-day, in a glaſs of water. This both expels wind, ſtrengthens the ſtomach, and promotes digeſtion.

Opiates are greatly extolled in theſe maladies; but as they only palliate the ſymptoms, and generally afterwards increaſe the diſeaſe, we would adviſe people to be extremely ſparing in the uſe of them, leſt habit render them at laſt abſolutely neceſſary.

It would be an eaſy matter to enumerate many medicines which have been extolled for relieving nervous diſorders; but whoever wiſhes for a thorough cure muſt expect it from regimen alone; we ſhall therefore omit mentioning more medicines, and again recommend the ſtricteſt attention to DIET, AIR, EXERCISE, and AMUSEMENTS.

OF MELANCHOLY.

Melancholy is that ſtate of alienation or weakneſs of mind which renders people incapable of enjoying the pleaſures, or performing the duties of life. It is a degree of inſanity, and often terminates in abſolute madneſs.

CAUSES.—It may proceed from a hereditary diſpoſition; intenſe thinking, eſpecially where the mind is long occupied about one object; violent paſſions or affections of the mind, as love, fear, joy, grief, over-weening pride, and ſuch like. It may alſo be occaſioned by exceſſive venery; narcotic

cotic or ſtupefactive poiſons; a ſedentary life; ſolitude; the ſuppreſſion of cuſtomary evacuations; acute fevers, or other diſeaſes. Violent anger will change melancholy into madneſs; and exceſſive cold, eſpecially of the lower extremities, will force the blood into the brain, and produce all the ſymptoms of madneſs. It may likewiſe proceed from the uſe of aliment that is hard of digeſtion, or which cannot be eaſily aſſimilated; from a callous ſtate of the integuments of the brain, or a dryneſs of the brain itſelf. To all which we may add gloomy or miſtaken notions of religion.

SYMPTOMS.——When perſons begin to be melancholy, they are timorous; watchful; fond of ſolitude; fretful; fickle; captious and inquiſitive; ſolicitous about trifles; ſometimes niggardly, and at other times prodigal. The belly is generally bound; the urine thin, and in ſmall quantity; the ſtomach and bowels inflated with wind; the complexion pale; the pulſe ſlow and weak. The functions of the mind are alſo greatly perverted, in ſo much that the patient often imagines himſelf dead, or changed into ſome other animal. Some have imagined their bodies were made of glaſs, or other brittle ſubſtances, and were afraid to move leſt they ſhould be broken to pieces. The unhappy patient, in this caſe, unleſs carefully watched, is apt to put an end to his own miſerable life.

When the diſeaſe is owing to an obſtruction of cuſtomary evacuations, or any bodily diſorder, it is eaſier cured than when it proceeds from affections of the mind, or an hereditary taint. A diſcharge of blood from the noſe, looſeneſs, ſcabby eruptions, the bleeding piles, or the *menſes*, ſometimes carry off this diſeaſe.

REGIMEN.——The diet ought to conſiſt chiefly of vegetables of a cooling and opening quality. Animal food, eſpecially ſalted or ſmoke-dried fiſh or fleſh, ought to be avoided. All kinds of ſhell-fiſh are bad. Aliments prepared with onions, garlic, or any thing that generates thick blood, are likewiſe improper. All kind of fruits that are wholeſome may be eat with advantage. Boerhaave gives an inſtance of a patient who, by a long uſe of whey, water, and garden-fruits, recovered, after having evacuated a great quantity of black-coloured matter.

Strong liquors of every kind ought to be avoided as poiſon. The moſt proper drink is water, whey, or very ſmall beer. Tea and coffee are improper. If honey agrees with the patient, it may be ate freely, or his drink may be ſweetened with it. Infuſions of balm-leaves, penny-royal, the roots of wild valerian, or the flowers of the lime-tree, may be drank freely, either by themſelves, or ſweetened with honey, as the patient ſhall chuſe.

The patient ought to take as much exerciſe in the open air as he can bear. This helps to diſ-

ſolve

ſolve the viſcid humours, it removes obſtructions, promotes the perſpiration, and all the other ſecretions. Every kind of madneſs is attended with a diminiſhed perſpiration; all means ought therefore to be uſed to promote that neceſſary and ſalutary diſcharge. Nothing can have a more direct tendency to increaſe the diſeaſe than confining the patient to a cloſe apartment. Were he forced to ride or walk a certain number of miles every day, it would tend greatly to alleviate his diſorder: but it would have ſtill a better effect, if he were obliged to labour a piece of ground. By digging, hoeing, planting, ſowing, *&c.* both the body and mind would be exerciſed. A long journey, or a voyage, eſpecially into a warmer climate, with agreeable companions, has often very happy effects. A plan of this kind, with a ſtrict attention to diet, is a much more rational method of cure than confining the patient within doors and plying him with medicines.

MEDICINE.——In the cure of this diſeaſe great regard muſt be paid to the mind. When the patient is in a low ſtate, his mind ought to be ſoothed and diverted with variety of amuſements, as entertaining ſtories, paſtimes, muſic, *&c.* This ſeems to have been the method of curing melancholy among the Jews, as we learn from the ſtory of King Saul; and indeed it is a very rational one. Nothing can remove diſeaſes of the mind ſo effectually as applications to the mind itſelf, the moſt efficacious of which is muſic. The patient's

patient's company ought likewiſe to conſiſt of ſuch perſons as are agreeable to him. People in this ſtate are apt to conceive unaccountable averſions againſt particular perſons; and the very ſight of ſuch perſons is ſufficient to diſtract their minds, and throw them into the utmoſt pertùrbation.

When the patient is high, evacuations are neceſſary. In this caſe he muſt be bled, and have his belly kept open by purging medicines, as manna, rhubarb, cream of tartar, or the ſoluble tartar. I have ſeen the laſt have very happy effects. It may be taken in the doſe of half an ounce, diſſolved in water-gruel every day, for ſundry weeks, or even for months, if neceſſary. More or leſs may be given according as it operates. Vomits have likewiſe a good effect; but they muſt be pretty ſtrong, otherwiſe they will not operate.

Camphire and muſk have likewiſe been uſed in this caſe with advantage. Ten or twelve grains of camphire may be rubbed in a mortar with half a dram of nitre, and taken twice a-day, or oftener, if the ſtomach will bear it. If it will not ſit upon the ſtomach in this form, it may be made into pills with gum aſafœtida and Ruſſian caſtor, and taken in the quantity above directed. If muſk is to be adminiſtered, a ſcruple or twenty-five grains of it may be made into a bolus with a little honey or common ſyrup, and taken twice or thrice a-day. We do not mean that all theſe medicines

dicines ſhould be adminiſtered at once; but whichever of them is given, muſt be duly perſiſted in, otherwiſe no benefit can be expected.

As it is very difficult to induce patients in this diſeaſe to take medicines, we ſhall mention ſome outward applications which ſometimes do good; the principal of theſe are iſſues, ſetons, and warm bathing. Iſſues may be made in any part of the body, but they generally have the beſt effect near the ſpine. The diſcharge from theſe may be greatly promoted by dreſſing them with the mild bliſtering ointment, and keeping what are commonly called the orrice peas in them. The moſt proper place for a ſeton is between the ſhoulder-blades; and it ought to be placed upwards and downwards, or in the direction of the ſpine.

OF THE PALSY.

The palſy is a loſs or diminution of ſenſe or motion, or of both, in one or more parts of the body. It is more or leſs dangerous, according to the importance of the part affected. A palſy of the heart, lungs, or any part neceſſary for life, is mortal. When it affects the ſtomach, the inteſtines, or the bladder, it is highly dangerous. If the face be affected, the caſe is bad, as it ſhews, that the diſeaſe proceeds from the brain. When the part affected feels cold, is inſenſible, or waſtes away, or when the judgment and memory begin to fail, there is ſmall hopes of a cure.

CAUSES.

CAUSES.——The immediate cauſe of palſy is whatever prevents the regular exertion of the nervous power upon any particular muſcle or part of the body. The occaſional and prediſpoſing cauſes are various, as drunkenneſs; wounds of the brain, or ſpinal marrow; preſſure upon the brain or nerves; very cold or damp air; the ſuppreſſion of cuſtomary evacuations; ſudden fear; want of exerciſe; or whatever greatly relaxes the ſyſtem, as drinking much tea *, or coffee, &c. The palſy may likewiſe proceed from wounds of the nerves themſelves, from the poiſonous fumes of metals or minerals, as mercury, lead, arſenick, &c.

In young perſons of a full habit, the palſy muſt be treated in the ſame manner as the ſanguine apoplexy. The patient muſt be bled, bliſtered, and have his belly kept open by ſharp clyſters or purgative medicines. But, in old age, or when the diſeaſe proceeds from relaxation or debility, which is generally the caſe, a quite contrary courſe muſt be purſued. The diet muſt be warm and attenuating, conſiſting chiefly of ſpicy and aromatic vegetables, as muſtard, horſe-radiſh, &c. The drink may be generous wine, muſtard-whey, or brandy and water. Friction with the fleſh bruſh,

* Many people imagine, that tea has no tendency to hurt the nerves, and that drinking the ſame quantity of warm water would be equally pernicious. This however ſeems to be a miſtake. Many perſons drink three or four cups of warm milk and water daily, without feeling any bad conſequences; yet the ſame quantity of tea will make their hands ſhake for twenty-four hours.

or a warm hand, is extremely proper, eſpecially on the parts affected. Bliſtering plaſters may likewiſe be applied to the affected parts with advantage. When this cannot be done, they may be rubbed with the volatile liniment, or the nerve-ointment of the Edinburgh diſpenſatory. One of the beſt external applications is electricity. The ſhocks ſhould be received on the part affected; and they ought daily to be repeated for ſeveral weeks.

Vomits are very beneficial in this kind of palſy, and ought to be frequently adminiſtered. Cæphalic ſnuff, or any thing that makes the patient ſneeze, is likewiſe uſeful. Some pretend to have found great benefit from rubbing the parts affected with nettles; but this does not ſeem to be any ways preferable to bliſtering. If the tongue be affected, the patient may gargle his mouth frequently with brandy and muſtard; or he may hold a bit of ſugar in his mouth wet with the palſy-drops or compound ſpirits of lavender. The wild valerian root is a very proper medicine in this caſe. It may either be taken in an infuſion with ſage-leaves, or half a dram of it in powder may be given in a glaſs of wine three times a-day. If the patient cannot uſe the valerian, he may take of *ſal volatile oleoſum*, compound ſpirits of lavender, and tincture of caſtor, each half an ounce; mix theſe together, and take forty or fifty drops in a glaſs of wine, three or four times a-day. A table-ſpoonful of muſtard-ſeed taken frequently is a very

good

good medicine. The patient ought likewiſe to chew cinnamon bark, ginger, or other warm ſpiceries.

Exercise is of the utmoſt importance in the palſy; but the patient muſt beware of cold, damp, and moiſt air. He ought to wear flannel next his ſkin; and, if poſſible, ſhould remove into a warmer climate.

OF THE EPILEPSY, or FALLING SICKNESS.

The epilepſy is a ſudden deprivation of all the ſenſes, wherein the patient falls ſuddenly down, and is affected with violent convulſive motions. Children, eſpecially thoſe who are delicately brought up, are moſt ſubject to it. It more frequently attacks men than women, and is very difficult to cure. When the epilepſy attacks children, there is reaſon to hope it may go off about the time of puberty. When it attacks any perſon after twenty years of age, the cure is difficult; but when after forty, a cure is hardly to be expected. If the fit continues only for a ſhort ſpace, and returns ſeldom, there is reaſon to hope; but if it continues long and returns frequently, the proſpect is bad. It is a very unfavourable ſymptom when the patient is ſeized with the fits in his ſleep.

CAUSES.——The epilepſy is ſometimes hereditary. It may likewiſe proceed from frights of

the mother when with child; from blows, bruiſes, or wounds on the head; a collection of water, blood, or ſerous humours in the brain; a polypus; tumours or concretions within the ſkull; exceſſive drinking; intenſe ſtudy; exceſs of venery; worms; teething; ſuppreſſion of cuſtomary evacuations; too great emptineſs or repletion; violent paſſions or affections of the mind, as fear, joy, *&c.*; hyſteric affections; contagion received into the body, as the infection of the ſmall-pox, meaſles, *&c.*

SYMPTOMS.——An epileptic fit is generally preceded by unuſual wearineſs; pain of the head; dulneſs; giddineſs; noiſe in the ears; dimneſs of ſight; palpitation of the heart; diſturbed ſleep; difficult breathing; the bowels are inflated with wind; the urine is in great quantity, but thin; the complexion is pale; the extremities are cold, and the patient often feels as it were a ſtream of cold air aſcending towards his head.

In the fit, the patient generally makes an unuſual noiſe; his thumbs are drawn in towards the palms of the hands; his eyes are diſtorted; he ſtarts, and foams at the mouth; his extremities are bent or twiſted various ways; he often diſcharges his ſeed, urine, and fœces involuntarily; and is quite deſtitute of all ſenſe and reaſon. After the fit is over, his ſenſes gradually return, and he complains of a kind of ſtupor, wearineſs, and pain of his head; but has no remembrance of what happened to him during the fit.

THE fits are ſometimes excited by violent affections of the mind, a debauch of liquor, exceſſive heat, cold, or the like.

THIS diſeaſe, from the difficulty of inveſtigating its cauſes, and its ſtrange ſymptoms, was formerly attributed to the wrath of the gods, or the agency of evil ſpirits. In modern times it has often, by the vulgar, been imputed to witchcraft or faſcination. It depends however as much upon natural cauſes as any other malady; and its cure may often be effected by perſiſting in the uſe of proper means.

REGIMEN.——Epileptic patients ought, if poſſible, to breathe a pure and free air. Their diet ſhould be light but nouriſhing. They ought to drink nothing ſtrong, to avoid ſwines fleſh, water-fowl, and likewiſe all windy and oily vegetables, as cabbage, nuts, *&c.* They ought to keep themſelves cheerful, carefully guarding againſt all violent paſſions, as anger, fear, *&c.*

EXERCISE is likewiſe of great uſe; but the patient muſt be careful to avoid all extremes either of heat or cold, all dangerous ſituations, as ſtanding upon precipices, riding deep waters, and ſuch like; as any thing that makes him giddy, is apt to occaſion a fit.

MEDICINE.——The intentions of cure muſt vary according to the cauſe of the diſeaſe. If the patient be of a ſanguine temperament, and there be reaſon to fear an obſtruction in the brain, bleeding and other evacuations will be neceſſary. When

the diſeaſe is occaſioned by the ſtoppage of cuſtomary evacuations, theſe, if poſſible, muſt be reſtored; if this cannot be done, others may be ſubſtituted in their place. Iſſues or ſetons, in this caſe, have often a very good effect. When there is reaſon to believe that the diſeaſe proceeds from worms, proper medicines muſt be uſed to kill or carry off theſe vermin. When the diſeaſe proceeds from teething, the belly ſhould be kept open by emollient clyſters, the feet frequently bathed in warm water, and, if the fits prove obſtinate, a bliſtering plaſter may be put betwixt the ſhoulders. The ſame method is to be followed, when epileptic fits precede the eruption of the ſmall-pox, or meaſles, *&c.*

When the diſeaſe is hereditary, or proceeds from a wrong formation of the brain, a cure is not to be expected. When it is owing to a debibility, or too great an irritability of the nervous ſyſtem, ſuch medicines as tend to brace and ſtrengthen the nerves may be uſed, as the Peruvian bark, preparations of ſteel, *&c.* *

Colebatch

* Fuller recommends the following electuary as a moſt excellent *anti-epileptic*. Take Jeſuits bark in powder three ounces, Virginian ſnake-root powdered one ounce, as much ſyrup of peony or cloves as is ſufficient to form it into a ſoft electuary. The doſe to an adult is a dram, or about the ſize of a nutmeg, morning and evening. It muſt be continued for three or four months, and afterwards repeated, three or four days before the new and full moon, for ſome time.

Mead likewiſe recommends an electuary of a ſimilar nature for the epilepſy, only he uſes Valerian-root in place of the ſnake-root.

COLEBATCH ſays, that the miſletoe cures an epilepſy as certainly as the Peruvian bark does an intermittent fever. The doſe to an adult is half a dram of the powder, four times a-day, drinking after it a draught of a ſtrong infuſion of the ſame plant. Though this medicine has not been found to anſwer the high encomiums which have been paſſed upon it, yet in obſtinate epileptic caſes it deſerves a trial. It muſt however be uſed for a conſiderable time, in order to produce any ſalutary effects.

MUSK has ſometimes been found to ſucceed in the epilepſy. Ten or twelve grains of it, with the ſame quantity of factitious cinnabar, may be made up into a bolus and taken every night and morning.

SOMETIMES the epilepſy has been cured by electricity.

CONVULSION FITS proceed from the ſame cauſes, and muſt be treated in the ſame manner as the epilepſy.

THERE is one particular ſpecies of convulſion fits which commonly goes by the name of St.

ſnake-root. It muſt be taken in the ſame manner as the above. The patient ought always to be bled, and to take a purge or two before he begins to uſe theſe medicines. They will likewiſe have a better effect if the patient drinks a tea-cupful of the decoction of *guaiacum* after each doſe. It may be made by boiling two ounces of guaiacum ſhavings, and one ounce of raiſins of the ſun ſtoned, in two Engliſh quarts of water to one. Strain the liquor, and afterwards let it ſtand to ſettle, then pour off the clear from the feces.

Vitus's dance, wherein the patient is agitated with ſtrange motions and geſticulations, which by the common people are generally believed to be the effects of witchcraft. This diſeaſe may be cured by repeated bleedings and purges; and afterwards uſing the medicines preſcribed above for the epilepſy, *viz.* the Peruvian bark, and ſnake-root, *&c.* Chalybeate-waters are found to be beneficial in this caſe. The cold bath is likewiſe of ſingular ſervice, and ought never to be neglected when the patient can bear it.

OF THE HICCUP.

THE hiccup is a ſpaſmodic or convulſive affection of the ſtomach and midriff, ariſing from any cauſe that irritates their nervous fibres.

IT may proceed from exceſs in eating or drinking; from a hurt of the ſtomach; poiſons; inflammations or ſchirrous tumours of the ſtomach, inteſtines, bladder, midriff, or the reſt of the *viſcera*. In gangrenes, acute and malignant fevers, a hiccup is often the forerunner of death.

WHEN the hiccup proceeds from the uſe of aliment that is flatulent, or hard of digeſtion, a draught of generous wine, or a dram of any ſpiritous liquor, will generally remove it. If poiſon be the cauſe, plenty of milk and oil muſt be drank, as has been formerly recommended. When it proceeds from an inflammation of the ſtomach, &c. it is very dangerous. In this caſe the cooling regi-

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men muſt be obſerved. The patient muſt be bled, and take frequently a few drops of the ſweet ſpirits of nitre in a cup of wine-whey. His ſtomach muſt likewiſe be fomented with cloths dipped in warm water; or bladders filled with warm milk and water applied to it.

When the hiccup proceeds from a gangrene or mortification, the Peruvian bark, with other antiſeptics, are the only medicines which have a chance to ſucceed. If the hiccup be a primary diſeaſe, and proceeds from a foul ſtomach, loaded either with a pituitous or a bilious humour, a gentle vomit and purge, if the patient be able to bear them, will be of ſervice. If it ariſes from flatulencies, the carminative medicines, directed for the heart-burn, muſt be uſed.

When the hiccup proves very obſtinate, recourſe muſt be had to the moſt powerful aromatic and antiſpaſmodic medicines. The principal of theſe is muſk; fifteen or twenty grains of which may be made into a bolus, and repeated occaſionally. Opiates are likewiſe of ſervice; but they muſt be uſed with caution. A bit of ſugar dipped in compound ſpirits of lavender, or the volatile aromatic tincture, may be taken frequently. External applications are ſometimes alſo beneficial; as the ſtomach plaſter, or a cataplaſm of the Venice treacle of the Edinburgh or London diſpenſatory, applied to the region of the ſtomach.

I LATELY

I LATELY attended a patient who had almoſt a conſtant hiccup for above nine weeks. It was frequently ſtopped by the uſe of muſk, opium, wine, and other cordial and antiſpaſmodic medicines, but always returned. Nothing however gave the patient ſo much eaſe as briſk ſmall beer. By drinking freely of this, the hiccup was often kept off for ſeveral days, which was more than could be done by the moſt powerful medicines. The patient was at length ſeized with a vomiting of blood, which ſoon put an end to his life. Upon opening the body, a large ſchirrous tumour was found near the pylorus or right orifice of the ſtomach.

CRAMP OF THE STOMACH.

THIS diſeaſe often ſeizes people ſuddenly, is very dangerous, and requires immediate aſſiſtance. It is moſt incident to perſons in the decline of life, eſpecially the gouty, hyſteric, and hypochondriac.

IF the patient has any inclination to vomit, he ought to take ſome draughts of warm water, or weak camomile tea, to clean his ſtomach. After this, if he has been coſtive, a laxative clyſter muſt be given. He ought then to take laudanum. The beſt way of adminiſtering it, is in a clyſter. Sixty or ſeventy drops of liquid laudanum may be given in a clyſter of warm water. This is much more

certain than laudanum given by the mouth, which is often vomited, and in ſome caſes increaſes the pain and ſpaſms in the ſtomach.

If the pain and cramps return with great violence, after the effects of the anodyne clyſter are over, another, with an equal or larger quantity of opium, may be given; and every four or five hours a bolus with ten or twelve grains of muſk, and half a dram of the Venice treacle.

In the mean time, the ſtomach ought to be fomented with cloths dipped in warm water; or bladders filled with warm milk and water, ſhould be conſtantly applied to it. I have often ſeen theſe produce the moſt happy effects. The anodyne balſam may alſo be rubbed on the part affected; and an antihyſteric plaſter worn upon it, for ſome time after the cramps are removed, to prevent their return.

In very violent and laſting pains of the ſtomach, ſome blood ought to be let, unleſs the weakneſs of the patient makes it improper. When the pain or cramps proceed from a ſuppreſſion of the *menſes*, bleeding is of uſe. If they be owing to the gout, recourſe muſt be had to ſpirits or ſome of the warm cordial waters. Bliſtering plaſters ought likewiſe, in this caſe, to be applied to the ancles. I have often ſeen violent cramps and pains of the ſtomach removed by covering it with a plaſter of Venice treacle.

OF

OF THE NIGHT-MARE.

In this diſeaſe the patient, in time of ſleep, imagines he feels an uncommon oppreſſion or weight about his breaſt or ſtomach, which he can by no means ſhake off. He groans, and ſometimes cries out, though oftener he attempts to ſpeak in vain. Sometimes he imagines himſelf engaged with an enemy, and, in danger of being killed, attempts to run away, but finds he cannot. Sometimes he fancies himſelf in a houſe that is on fire, or that he is in danger of being drowned in a river. He often thinks he is falling over a precipice, and the dread of being daſhed to pieces ſuddenly awakes him.

This diſorder has been ſuppoſed to proceed from too much blood; from a ſtagnation of blood in the brain, lungs, *&c.* But it is rather a nervous affection, and ariſes chiefly from indigeſtion. Hence we find that perſons of weak nerves, who lead a ſedentary life, and live full, are moſt commonly afflicted with the night-mare. Nothing tends more to produce it than heavy ſuppers, eſpecially when ate late, or the patient goes to bed ſoon after. Wind is likewiſe a very frequent cauſe of this diſeaſe; for which reaſon thoſe who are afflicted with it ought to avoid all flatulent food. Deep thought, anxiety, or any thing that oppreſſes the mind, ought alſo to be avoided.

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As perſons afflicted with the night-mare generally moan, or make ſome noiſe in the fit, they ſhould be waked, or ſpoken to by ſuch as hear them, as the uneaſineſs generally goes off as ſoon as the patient is awake. Dr. Whytt ſays, he generally found a dram of brandy, taken at bed-time, prevent this diſeaſe. That, however, is a bad cuſtom, and, in time, loſes its effect. We would rather have the patient depend upon the uſe of food of eaſy digeſtion, cheerfulneſs, exerciſe through the day, and a light ſupper taken early, than to accuſtom himſelf to drams. A glaſs of peppermint-water will often promote digeſtion as much as a glaſs of brandy, and is much ſafer. After a perſon of weak digeſtion however has ate flatulent food, a dram may be neceſſary; in this caſe we would recommend it as the moſt proper medicine.

Persons who are young, and full of blood, if troubled with the night-mare, ought to take a purge frequently, and uſe a ſpare diet.

OF SWOONINGS.

People of weak nerves or delicate conſtitutions are very liable to ſwoonings or fainting fits. Theſe indeed are ſeldom dangerous when duly attended to; but when wholly neglected, or improperly treated, they often prove hurtful, and ſometimes fatal.

THE general cauſes of ſwooning are, ſudden tranſitions from cold to heat; breathing air that is deprived of its proper ſpring or elaſticity; great fatigue; exceſſive weakneſs; loſs of blood; long faſting; fear, grief, and other violent paſſions or affections of the mind.

IT is well known, that perſons who have been long expoſed to cold, often faint or fall into a ſwoon, upon coming into the houſe, eſpecially if they drink hot liquor, or ſit near a large fire. This might eaſily be prevented by people taking care not to go into a warm room immediately after they have been expoſed to the cold air, to approach the fire gradually, and not to eat or drink any thing hot, till the body has been gradually brought into a warm temperature.

WHEN any one, in conſequence of neglecting theſe precautions, falls into a ſwoon, he ought immediately to be removed to a cooler apartment; to have ligatures applied above his knees and elbows, and to have his hands and face ſprinkled with vinegar. He ſhould likewiſe be made to ſmell to vinegar, and ſhould have a ſpoonful or two of water, if he can ſwallow, with about a third part of vinegar mixed with it, poured into his mouth. If theſe ſhould not remove the complaint, it will be neceſſary to bleed the patient, and afterwards to give him a clyſter.

AS air that is breathed frequently loſes its elaſticity or ſpring, it is no wonder if perſons who reſpire

reſpire in it often fall into a ſwoon or fainting fit. They are, in this caſe, deprived of the very principle of life. Hence it is that fainting fits are ſo frequent in all crowded aſſemblies, eſpecially in hot ſeaſons. Such fits however muſt be conſidered as a kind of temporary death; and, to the weak and delicate, they ſometimes prove fatal. They ought therefore with the utmoſt care to be guarded againſt. The method of doing this is obvious. Let aſſembly rooms, and all other places of public reſort, be large and well ventilated; and let the weak and delicate avoid ſuch places, particularly in warm ſeaſons.

A PERSON who faints, in ſuch a ſituation, ought immediately to be carried into the open air; his temples ſhould be rubbed with ſtrong vinegar or brandy, and volatile ſpirits or ſalts held to his noſe. He ſhould be laid upon his back with his head low, and have a little wine, or ſome other cordial, poured into his mouth, as ſoon as he is able to ſwallow it. If the perſon has been ſubject to hyſteric fits, caſtor or aſafœtida ſhould be applied to the noſe, or burnt feathers, horn, or leather, *&c.*

WHEN fainting fits proceed from mere weakneſs or exhauſtion, which is often the caſe after great fatigue, long faſting, loſs of blood, or the like, the patient muſt be ſupported with generous cordials, as jellies, wines, ſpirituous liquors, *&c.* Theſe however muſt be given at firſt in very ſmall quantities,

quantities, and increaſed gradually as the patient is able to bear them. He ought to be allowed to lie quite ſtill and eaſy upon his back, with his head low, and ſhould have freſh air admitted into his chamber. His food ſhould conſiſt of nouriſhing broths, ſago-gruel with wine, new milk, and other things of a light and cordial nature. Theſe things are to be given out of the fit. All that can be done in the fit is, to let him ſmell to a bottle of Hungary-water, *eau de luce*, or ſpirits of hartſhorn, and to rub his temples with warm brandy, or to lay a compreſs dipped in it to the pit of the ſtomach.

In fainting fits that proceed from fear, grief, or other violent paſſions or affections of the mind, the patient muſt be very cautiouſly managed. He ſhould be ſuffered to remain at reſt, and only made to ſmell to ſome vinegar. After he is come to himſelf he may drink freely of warm lemonade, or balm tea, with ſome orange or lemon peel in it. It will likewiſe be proper, if the fainting fits have been long and ſevere, to clean the bowels by throwing in an emollient clyſter.

It is common in fainting fits, from whatever cauſe they proceed, to bleed the patient. This practice may be very proper in ſtrong perſons of a full habit; but in thoſe who are weak and delicate, or ſubject to nervous diſorders, it is dangerous. The proper method with ſuch people is to expoſe them to the free air, and to uſe cordial

and ſtimulating medicinēs, as volatile ſalts, Hungary water, ſpirits of lavender, tincture of caſtor, &c.

OF HYSTERIC AND HYPOCHONDRIAC AFFECTIONS.

These likewiſe belong to the numerous tribe of nervous diſorders, which may juſtly be reckoned the reproach of medicine. We would have treated of them at greater length, but for this reaſon, that they are diſeaſes which nobody chuſes to own; and indeed it would be better if their names were never mentioned. One cannot tell a lady ſhe is hyſteric, without affronting her; nor ſay that a gentleman is hypochondriac, without in ſome meaſure inſinuating that he is mad, or at leaſt whimſical. But although theſe names were liable to no ſuch unfavourable acceptation, they are by no means proper, and for that reaſon ought to be diſcontinued.

Physicians are not more at a loſs to account for the ſymptoms of theſe diſorders than to preſcribe medicines for removing them. There are indeed ſo many nervous antidotes daily puffed away, that one would be apt to think no perſon could long labour under any diſeaſe of this nature. But, alas! whoever truſts to theſe, will be ſure to meet with a diſappointment. Nervous diſeaſes proceed either from diſagreeable affections of the mind, or from errors in the regimen, and can

only be cured by removing the one, or rectifying the other.

Though this truth is well known to phyſicians, yet they are often obliged to diſguiſe it. Patients who labour under nervous diſeaſes, are generally very fond of medicine; and when they are not ſwallowing drugs, they think themſelves neglected. For this reaſon the doctor muſt either give medicine, or lay his account with being diſmiſſed. Nothing indeed is more characteriſtic of the diſeaſe, than an inclination to conſult new phyſicians. Hence few perſons of fortune who are nervous, fail to conſult every phyſician they meet with. Nor do they ſtop here; but generally take the advice of every quack and old woman, however ignorant or contemptible: but, though fond of advice, they ſeldom follow it ſo long as to reap any benefit from it. Fickle and unſteady, they fly from one thing to another, till at length, tired out with diſappointments, and deſpairing of relief, they ſink under a load of calamities.

Would ſuch perſons, inſtead of hunting after medicines, and flying from one phyſician to another, perſiſt ſteadily in a proper plan of regimen, they might often render life tolerably eaſy, and ſometimes even agreeable *. This however requires

* It were to be wiſhed, in diſeaſes where the cure depends chiefly upon the patient's own endeavours, that no medicines were preſcribed at all. Wherever phyſicians order medicine, patients will truſt to it; and, when that is the caſe, it is ten to

quires more reſolution than moſt people are maſters of. They will ſwallow a drug becauſe it is ſoon over, and they expect immediate relief from it; but can by no means think of purſuing a plan that requires patience and perſeverance, and which perhaps ſtrikes at the root of ſome of their moſt darling enjoyments.

The general cauſes and ſymptoms of theſe diſeaſes having been pretty fully pointed out in the beginning of this chapter, under the general title of nervous diſorders, we ſhall not repeat them. It may not however be improper to add, that from whatever ſource theſe diſorders may ſpring, their principal ſeat ſeems to be the alimentary canal, at leaſt moſt of their ſymptoms ariſe from thence: as flatulence; indigeſtion; naufea and vomiting; the hyſteric globe; cramps of the ſtomach, *&c.* All theſe ſhew a weak and relaxed ſtate of the ſtomach and inteſtines; to which, if we add an over-degree of ſenſibility of the nervous ſyſtem, we ſhall be able to account for moſt of the ſymptoms denominated *nervous*, *hyſteric*, or *hypochondriac*.

This view of nervous diſeaſes plainly points out the intentions of cure, *viz.* to ſtrengthen the nerves, and promote the digeſtion. But as this can only be done by *labour*, *ſimple food*, and *free air*, we muſt

to one but their own endeavours are neglected. The phyſician therefore, who has ſo much hardineſs and honeſty as to give advice without medicine, is, in many caſes, the moſt likely to perform a cure, as it puts the patient upon exerting his own powers; which he will never do ſo long as he has any faith in medicine.

again beg leave to recommend an attention to theſe. The lazy, the indolent, and the luxurious, will deſpiſe this advice: but ſuch are incurable, and deſerve to ſuffer. I have known the moſt obſtinate nervous diſeaſes cured by labour, but never knew them yield to medicine. Some of their ſymptoms may indeed for a time be mitigated by it, but that is all it can do.

The perſons moſt liable to theſe diſorders are, the lazy, the luxurious, the unfortunate, and the ſedentary. For the two firſt of theſe claſſes we ſhall preſcribe nothing, as the cure is in their own power; and to the third we can only recommend hope, amuſements, *&c.* The fourth, however, merits our further attention, both becauſe it comprehends a great number of the uſeful part of mankind, and likewiſe becauſe it is often out of their power to alter their ſituation. Many of them might however do a great deal, if they would. For example, the clergy are almoſt to a man hypochondriac, and often poor, yet think it much below them to labour. I have been able to perſuade ſome of them to threſh, *&c.* others to dig; nor did ſuch ever fail to get well. Let the reſt follow their example, or take exerciſe in what way they pleaſe. As to indolent girls, who are eat up with hyſteric fits merely becauſe they will not work, I ſee no reaſon why they ſhould not be ſent to the workhouſe, and put upon hard labour. This would be both a benefit to themſelves and the ſociety to which they belong.

Those,

Those, however, who are willing to take exercise, but whose occupations confine them to the house, and perhaps to an unfavourable posture, really deserve our pity. We have, in a former part of the book, endeavoured to lay down some rules for their conduct; and shall only add, that where these cannot be complied with, or fail of having the desired effect, their intention may, in some measure, be answered by the following medicines, *viz.* the Peruvian bark, with other bitters; preparations of steel; asafœtida; elixir of vitriol; infusions of Valerian-root, penny-royal, *&c.* The various ways of preparing and using these has already been pointed out.

* Some people will think it strange that we should recommend labour to the clergy; but they ought to consider that the regulations of society can never alter the laws of our nature; and, *if man must either labour or be sick*, surely no set of men have any title to an exemption from the general rule. The monkish notion *that a clergyman ought rather to beg than dig*, has more bad consequences than we chuse to name. It must however be acknowledged, that a clergyman who has the charge of a parish may find sufficient exercise, if he chuses to take it, without either threshing, digging, or plowing.

CHAP. XLIV.

OF POISONS.

EVERY perſon ought, in ſome meaſure, to be acquainted with the nature and cure of poiſons. They are generally taken unawares, and their effects are often ſo ſudden and violent, as not to admit of delay, or allow time to procure the aſſiſtance of phyſicians. Happily indeed no great degree of medical knowledge is here neceſſary; the remedies for moſt poiſons being generally at hand, or eaſily obtained, and nothing but common prudence needful in the application of them.

THE vulgar notion, that every poiſon is cured by ſome counter-poiſon, as a ſpecific, has done much hurt. People believe they can do nothing for the patient, unleſs they know the particular antidote to that kind of poiſon which he has taken. Whereas the cure of all poiſons taken into the ſtomach, without exception, depends chiefly on diſcharging them as ſoon as poſſible.

THERE is no caſe wherein the indications of cure are more obvious than in this. Poiſon is ſeldom long in the ſtomach before it occaſions ſickneſs, with an inclination to vomit. This ſhews plainly what ought to be done. Indeed common ſenſe dictates to every man, that, if any thing has been taken into the ſtomach which endangers life, it ought

ought immediately to be discharged. Were this duly regarded, the danger arising from poisons might generally be avoided. The method of prevention is obvious, and the means are in the hands of every man.

We shall not take up the reader's time with a detail of the ridiculous notions which have prevailed among ignorant people in different ages with regard to poisons; neither shall we mention the boasted antidotes which have been recommended either for preventing or obviating their effects; but shall content ourselves with pointing out the poisons most common in this country, and the means of avoiding their dangerous consequences.

Poisons either belong to the mineral, the vegetable, or the animal kingdom.

Mineral poisons are commonly of an acrid or corrosive quality; as arsenic, cobalt, the corrosive sublimate of mercury, &c.

Those of the vegetable kind are generally of a narcotic or stupefactive quality; as poppy, hemlock, henbane, berries of the deadly night-shade, &c.

Poisonous animals communicate their infection either by the bite or sting. This poison is very different from the former, and only produces its effects when received into the body by a wound.

MINERAL POISONS.—Arſenic is the moſt common of this claſs; and, as the whole of them are pretty ſimilar both in their effects and method of cure, what is ſaid with reſpect to it, will be applicable to every other ſpecies of corroſive poiſon.

When a perſon has taken arſenic, he ſoon perceives a burning heat, and a violent pricking pain in his ſtomach and bowels, an intolerable thirſt, and an inclination to vomit. The tongue and throat feel rough and dry; and, if proper help be not ſoon adminiſtered, the patient is ſeized with great anxiety, hiccuping, faintings, and coldneſs of the extremities. To theſe ſucceed black vomits, fœtid ſtools, with a mortification of the ſtomach and inteſtines, which are the immediate forerunners of death.

On the firſt appearance of theſe ſymptoms, the patient ſhould drink large quantities of new milk and ſalad oil till he vomits; or he may drink warm water mixed with oil. Fat broths are likewiſe proper, provided they can be got ready in time. Where no oil is to be had, freſh butter may be melted and mixed with the milk or water. Theſe things are to be drank as long as the inclination to vomit continues. Some have drank eight or ten Engliſh quarts before the vomiting ceaſed; and it is never ſafe to leave off drinking while one particle of the poiſon remains in the ſtomach.

These oily or fat ſubſtances not only provoke vomiting, but likewiſe blunt the acrimony of the poiſon,

poiſon, and prevent its wounding the bowels; but if they ſhould not make the perſon vomit, half a dram or two ſcruples of the powder of ipecacuanha muſt be given, or a few ſpoonfuls of the oxymel or vinegar of ſquills may be mixed with the water which he drinks. Vomiting may likewiſe be excited by tickling the inſide of the throat with a feather. Should theſe methods however fail, half a dram of white vitriol, or five or ſix grains of emetic tartar muſt be adminiſtered.

If tormenting pains are felt in the lower belly, and there is reaſon to fear, that the poiſon has got down to the inteſtines, clyſters of milk and oil muſt be very frequently thrown up; and the patient muſt drink emollient decoctions of barley, oatmeal, marſhmallows, and ſuch like. He muſt likewiſe take an infuſion of ſenna and manna, a ſolution of Glauber's ſalts, or ſome other purgative.

After the poiſon has been evacuated, the patient ought, for ſome time, to live upon ſuch things as are of a healing and cooling quality; to abſtain from fleſh and all ſtrong liquors, and to live upon milk, broth, gruel, light puddings, and other ſpoon-meats of eaſy digeſtion. His drink ſhould be barley-water, linſeed tea, or infuſions of any of the mild mucilaginous vegetables.

VEGETABLE POISONS, beſides heat and pain of the ſtomach, commonly occaſion ſome degree of giddineſs, and often a kind of ſtupidity or folly. Perſons who have taken theſe poiſons muſt

muſt be treated in the ſame manner as for the mineral or corroſive.

Though the vegetable poiſons, when allowed to remain in the ſtomach, often prove fatal; yet the danger is generally over as ſoon as they are diſcharged. Not being of ſuch a cauſtic or corroſive nature, they are leſs apt to wound and inflame the bowels than mineral ſubſtances; no time however ought to be loſt in having them expelled the ſtomach.

Opium, being frequently taken by miſtake, merits particular attention. It is uſed as a medicine both in a ſolid and liquid form, which latter commonly goes by the name of laudanum. It is indeed a valuable medicine when taken in proper quantity; but as an over-doſe proves a ſtrong poiſon, we ſhall point out its common effects, together with the method of cure.

Too great a quantity of opium generally occaſions great drowſineſs, with ſtupor and other apoplectic ſymptoms. Sometimes the perſon has ſo great an inclination to ſleep, that it is almoſt impoſſible to keep him awake. Every method muſt however be tried for this purpoſe. He ſhould be toſſed, ſhaked, and moved about. Sharp bliſtering plaſters ſhould be applied to his legs or arms, and ſtimulating medicines, as ſalts of hartſhorn, &c. held under his noſe. It will alſo be proper to let blood. At the ſame time every method muſt be taken to make him diſcharge the poiſon. This may be done in the manner directed above,

above, *viz.* by the uſe of ſtrong vomits, drinking plenty of warm water with oil, *&c.*

MEAD, beſides vomits, in this caſe, recommends acid medicines with lixivial ſalts. He ſays, that he has often given ſalt of wormwood mixed with juice of lemon in repeated doſes with great ſucceſs.

IF the body ſhould remain weak and languid after the poiſon has been diſcharged, nouriſhing diet and cordials will be proper; but when there is reaſon to fear that the ſtomach or bowels are inflamed, the greateſt circumſpection is neceſſary both with regard to food and medicine.

OF THE BITES OF POISONOUS ANIMALS.—We ſhall begin with the bite of a mad dog, as it is both the moſt common and dangerous animal-poiſon in this country.

THE creatures naturally liable to contract this diſeaſe are, ſo far as we yet know, all of the dog-kind, *viz.* foxes, dogs, and wolves. Hence it is called the *rabies canina*, or dog-madneſs. Of the laſt we have none in this iſland; and it ſo ſeldom happens that any perſon is bit by the firſt, that they ſcarce deſerve to be taken notice of. If ſuch a thing ſhould happen, the method of treatment is preciſely the ſame as for the bite of a mad dog.

THE ſymptoms of madneſs in a dog are as follow: At firſt he looks dull, ſhews an averſion to food and company: He does not bark as uſual, but ſeems to murmur, is peeviſh, and apt to bite ſtrangers: His ears and tail droop more than uſual,

uſual, and he appears drowſy: Afterwards he begins to loll out his tongue, and froth at the mouth, his eyes ſeeming heavy and watery: He now, if not confined, takes off, runs panting along with a kind of dejected air, and endeavours to bite every one he meets. Other dogs are ſaid to fly from him. Some think this a certain ſign of madneſs, ſuppoſing that they know him by the ſmell; but it is not to be depended on. If he eſcapes being killed, he ſeldom runs above two or three days, till he dies exhauſted with heat, hunger, and fatigue.

This diſeaſe is moſt frequent after long dry, hot ſeaſons; and ſuch dogs as live upon putrid ſtinking carrion, without having enough of freſh water, are moſt liable to it.

When any perſon is bit by a dog, the ſtricteſt enquiry ought to be made, whether the animal be really mad. Many diſagreeable conſequences ariſe from neglecting to aſcertain this point. Some people have lived in continual anxiety for many years, becauſe they had been bit by a dog which they believed to be mad; but, as he had been killed on the ſpot, it was impoſſible to aſcertain the fact. This ſhould induce us, inſtead of killing a dog the moment he has bit any perſon, to do all in our power to keep him alive, at leaſt till we can be certain whether he be mad or not.

Many circumſtances may contribute to make people imagine a dog mad. He loſes his maſter,

runs about in queſt of him, is ſet upon by other dogs, and perhaps by men. The creature thus frightened, beat, and abuſed, looks wild, and lolls out his tongue as he runs along. Immediately a crowd is after him; while he, finding himſelf cloſely purſued, and taking every one he meets for an enemy, naturally attempts to bite him in ſelf-defence. He ſoon gets knocked on the head, and it paſſes currently that he was mad, as it is then impoſſible to prove the contrary.

This being the true hiſtory of, by far, the greater part of thoſe dogs which paſs for mad, is it any wonder that numberleſs whimſical medicines have been extolled for preventing the effects of their bite? This readily accounts for the great variety of infallible remedies for the bite of a mad dog, which are to be met with in almoſt every family. Though not one in a thouſand has any claim to merit, yet they are all ſupported by numberleſs vouchers. No wonder that imaginary diſeaſes ſhould be cured by imaginary remedies. In this way, credulous people firſt impoſe upon themſelves, and then deceive others. The ſame medicine that was ſuppoſed to prevent the effects of the bite, when the dog was not mad, is recommended to a perſon who has had the misfortune to be bit by a dog that was really mad. He takes it, truſts to it, and is undone.

To theſe miſtakes we muſt impute the frequent ill ſucceſs of the medicines uſed for preventing the effects of the bite of a mad dog. It is not owing

ſo

so much to a defect in medicine, as to wrong applications. I am perſuaded, if proper medicines were adminiſtered immediately after the bite is received, and continued for a ſufficient length of time, we ſhould not loſe one in a thouſand of thoſe who have the misfortune to be bit by a mad dog.

This poiſon is generally communicated by a wound, which, nevertheleſs, heals as ſoon as a common wound: But afterwards it begins to feel painful, and as the pain ſpreads towards the neighbouring parts, the perſon becomes heavy and liſtleſs. His ſleep is unquiet with frightful dreams; he ſighs, looks dull, and loves ſolitude. Theſe are the forerunners, or rather the firſt ſymptoms, of that dreadful diſeaſe occaſioned by the bite of a mad dog. But as we do not propoſe to treat the diſeaſe itſelf, but to point out the method of preventing it, we ſhall not take up time in ſhewing its progreſs from the firſt invaſion to its commonly fatal end.

The common notion, that this poiſon may lie in the body for many years, and afterwards prove fatal, is both hurtful and ridiculous. It muſt render ſuch perſons as have had the misfortune to be bit very unhappy, and can have no good effects. If the perſon takes proper medicines for forty days after the time of his being bit, and feels no ſymptoms of the diſeaſe, there is reaſon to believe him out of danger. Some indeed have gone mad twelve months after they were bit; but I never knew it happen

happen later; and of this I only remember to have ſeen one inſtance.

THE medicines recommended for preventing the effects of the bite of a mad dog, are chiefly ſuch as promote the different ſecretions, and antiſpaſmodics.

DR. Mead recommends a preventive medicine, which he ſays he never knew fail, though in the ſpace of thirty years he had uſed it a thouſand times.

THE doctor's preſcription is as follows:

"TAKE aſh-coloured ground liver-wort, cleaned, dried, and powdered, half an ounce; of black pepper powdered, a quarter of an ounce. Mix theſe well together, and divide the powder into four doſes; one of which muſt be taken every morning faſting, for four mornings ſucceſſively, in half an Engliſh pint of cows milk warm.

AFTER theſe four doſes are taken, the patient muſt go into the cold bath, or a cold ſpring or river, every morning faſting, for a month; he muſt be dipped all over, but not ſtay in (with his head above water) longer than half a minute, if the water be very cold. After this he muſt go in three times a-week for a fortnight longer.

THE perſon muſt be bled before he begins to uſe the medicine."

WE ſhall next mention the famous Eaſt India ſpecific, as it is called. This medicine is compoſed

poſed of cinnabar and muſk. It is eſteemed a great antiſpaſmodic; and, by many, extolled as an infallible remedy for preventing the effects of the bite of a mad dog.

"TAKE native and factitious cinnabar, of each twenty-four grains, muſk ſixteen grains. Let theſe be made into a fine powder, and taken in a glaſs of arrack or brandy."

THIS ſingle doſe is ſaid to ſecure the perſon for thirty days, at the end of which it muſt be repeated; but if he has any ſymptoms of the diſeaſe, it muſt be repeated in three hours.

THE following is likewiſe reckoned a good antiſpaſmodic medicine:

TAKE of Virginian ſnake-root in powder, half a dram, gum aſafœtida twelve grains, gum camphire ſeven grains; make theſe into a bolus with a little ſyrup of ſaffron.

CAMPHIRE may alſo be given in the following manner:

TAKE purified nitre half an ounce, Virginian ſnake-root in powder two drams, camphire one dram; rub them together in a mortar, and divide the whole into ten doſes.

MERCURY is another medicine of great efficacy, both in the prevention and cure of this kind of madneſs. When uſed as a preventive, it will be ſufficient to rub daily a dram of the ointment into the parts about the wound.

VINEGAR

VINEGAR is likewiſe of conſiderable ſervice, and ſhould be taken freely, either in the patient's food or drink.

THESE are the principal medicines recommended for preventing the effects of the bite of a mad dog. We would not however adviſe people to truſt to any one of them; but from a proper combination of their different powers, there is the greateſt reaſon to hope for ſucceſs.

THE great error in the uſe of theſe medicines lies, in not taking them for a ſufficient length of time. They are uſed more like charms, than medicines intended to produce any change in the body. To this, and not to the inſufficiency of the medicines, muſt we impute their frequent want of ſucceſs.

DR. Mead ſays, that the virtue of his medicine conſiſts in promoting urine. But how a poiſon ſhould be expelled by urine, with only three or four doſes of any medicine, however powerful, is not eaſy to conceive. More time is certainly neceſſary; and here the defect of the doctor's preſcription ſeems to lie.

THE Eaſt-India ſpecific is ſtill more exceptionable on this account.

AS theſe and moſt other medicines, taken ſingly, have frequently been found to fail, we ſhall recommend the following courſe:

IF a perſon be bit in a fleſhy part, where there is no hazard of hurting any large blood-veſſel, the parts adjacent to the wound may be cut away.

But if this be not done ſoon after the bite has been received, it will be better to omit it.

The wound may be waſhed with ſalt and water, or a pickle made of vinegar and ſalt, and afterwards dreſſed twice a-day with yellow baſilicon mixed with ſome red precipitate of mercury.

The patient ſhould begin to uſe either Dr. Mead's medicine, or ſome of the others mentioned above. If he takes Mead's medicine, he may uſe it as the doctor directs for four days ſucceſſively. Let him then omit it for two or three days, and again repeat the ſame number of doſes as before.

During this courſe, he muſt rub into the parts about the wound, daily, one dram of the mercurial ointment. This may be done for ten or twelve days at leaſt.

When this courſe is over, he may take ſome doſes of phyſic, and wait a few days till the effects of the mercury be quite gone off. He muſt then begin to uſe the cold bath, into which he muſt go every morning for five or ſix weeks. But if the patient ſhould feel cold and chilly for a long time after coming out of the cold bath, it will be better to uſe a tepid one, or to have the water a little warmed.

In the mean time, we would adviſe him not to leave off all internal medicines, but to take either one of the boluſes of ſnake-root, aſafœtida and camphire; or one of the powders of nitre, camphire,

phire, and ſnake-root, twice a-day. Theſe may be continued for a fortnight or three weeks longer.

If the perſon has gone through the above courſe of medicine, and no ſymptoms of madneſs appear, he may be reckoned out of danger. It will nevertheleſs be adviſeable, for the greater ſafety, to take a doſe or two of Dr. Mead's medicine, once a-fortnight, for the three or four ſucceeding months.

During the uſe of the mercurial ointment, the patient muſt keep within doors, and take nothing cold.

A proper regimen muſt be obſerved during the whole courſe. The patient ſhould abſtain from fleſh, and all ſalted and high-ſeaſoned proviſions. He muſt avoid ſtrong liquors, and live moſtly upon a light and rather ſpare diet. His mind ſhould be kept as eaſy and cheerful as poſſible, and all exceſſive heat and violent paſſions avoided with the utmoſt care.

I have never ſeen this courſe of medicine, with proper regimen, fail to prevent the hydrophobia, and cannot help again obſerving, that the want of ſucceſs muſt generally be owing either to the application of improper medicines, or not uſing proper ones for a ſufficient length of time.

Mankind are extremely fond of every thing that promiſes a ſudden or miraculous cure. By truſting to theſe they often loſe their lives, when a regular courſe of medicine would have rendered

them abſolutely ſafe. This holds remarkably in the preſent caſe: Numbers of people, for example, believe if they or their cattle be once dipped in the ſea, it is ſufficient; as if the ſalt water were a charm againſt the effects of the bite. This, and ſuch like whims, have proved fatal to many.

It is a common notion, if a perſon be bit by a dog which is not mad, that, if he ſhould go mad afterwards, the perſon would be affected with the diſorder at the ſame time; but this notion is too ridiculous to deſerve a ſerious conſideration. It is a good rule, however, to avoid dogs as much as poſſible, as the diſeaſe is often upon them for ſome time before its violent ſymptoms appear. The hydrophobia has been occaſioned by the bite of a dog which ſhewed no other ſymptoms of the diſeaſe but liſtleſſneſs and a ſullen diſpoſition. It is ſomewhat ſurpriſing, that no proper enquiry has ever been made into the truth of the common opinion, that a dog which has been wormed cannot bite after he goes mad. If the fact could be aſcertained, and the practice rendered general, it would ſave both the lives and properties of many.

Though we do not mean to treat fully of the cure of the hydrophobia, yet we are far from reckoning it incurable. The notion that this diſeaſe could not be cured, has been productive of the moſt horrid conſequences. It was uſual either to abandon the unhappy perſons, as ſoon as they were ſeized with the diſeaſe, to their fate, to bleed them to death, or to ſuffocate them between mattreſſes or feather-

beds, &c. This conduct certainly deſerved the ſevereſt puniſhment! We hope, for the honour of human nature, it will never be heard of again.

I HAVE never had an opportunity of treating this diſeaſe, and therefore can ſay nothing of it from my own experience; but the learned Doctor Tiſſot ſays it may be cured in the following manner:

1. THE patient muſt be bled to a conſiderable quantity; and this may be repeated twice, thrice, or even a fourth time, if circumſtances require it.

2. THE patient ſhould be put, if poſſible, into a warm bath; and this ſhould be uſed twice a-day.

3. HE ſhould every day receive two, or even three emollient clyſters.

4. THE wound, and the parts adjoining to it, ſhould be rubbed with the mercurial ointment twice a-day.

5. THE whole limb which contains the wound ſhould be rubbed with oil, and be wrapped up in an oily flannel.

6. EVERY three hours, a doſe of Cob's powder ſhould be taken in a cup of the infuſion of lime-tree and elder-flowers. This powder is made, by rubbing together in a mortar, to a very fine powder, of native and factitious cinnabar, each twenty-four grains; of muſk, ſixteen grains.

7. THE following bolus is to be given every night, and to be repeated in the morning, if the patient is not eaſy, waſhing it down with the infuſion mentioned above: Take one dram of Vir-

ginia ſnake-root in powder; of camphire and aſafœtida, ten grains each; of opium, one grain; and, with a ſufficient quantity of conſerve or rob of elder, make a bolus.

8. If there be a great nauſea at ſtomach, with a bitterneſs in the mouth, thirty-five or forty grains of ipecacuanha, in powder, may be taken for a vomit.

9. The patient's food, if he takes any, muſt be light; as panado, ſoups made of farinaceous or mealy vegetables, &c.

10. If the patient ſhould long continue weak, and ſubject to terrors, he may take half a dram of the Peruvian bark thrice a-day.

The next poiſonous animal which we ſhall mention is the VIPER. The greaſe of this animal rubbed into the wound is ſaid to cure the bite. Though that is all the viper-catchers generally do when bit, we ſhould not think it ſufficient for the bite of an enraged viper. It would ſurely be more ſafe to have the wound well ſucked *, and afterwards

* The practice of ſucking out poiſons is very ancient; and indeed nothing can be more rational. Where the bite cannot be cut out, this is the moſt likely way for extracting the poiſon. There can be no danger in performing this office, as the poiſon does no harm unleſs it be taken into the body by a wound. The perſon who ſucks the wound, ought however to waſh his mouth frequently with ſalad oil, which will ſecure him from even the leaſt inconveniency. The *Pſylli* in Africa, and the *Marſi* in Italy, were famed for curing the bites of poiſonous animals by ſucking the wound; and we are told, that the Indians in North America practiſe the ſame at this day.

rubbed

rubbed with warm ſalad-oil. A poultice of bread and milk, ſoftened with ſalad-oil, ſhould likewiſe be applied to the wound; and the patient ought to drink freely of vinegar-whey, or water-gruel with vinegar in it, to make him ſweat. Vinegar is one of the beſt medicines which can be uſed in any kind of poiſon, and ought to be taken very liberally. If the patient be ſick, he may take a vomit. This courſe will be ſufficient to cure the bite of any of the poiſonous animals of this country.

With regard to poiſonous inſects, as the bee, the waſp, the hornet, *&c.* their ſtings are ſeldom attended with danger, unleſs when a perſon happens to be ſtung by a great number of them at the ſame time; in which caſe ſomething ſhould be done to abate the inflammation and ſwelling. Some, for this purpoſe, apply honey; others lay pounded parſley to the part. A mixture of vinegar and Venice treacle is likewiſe recommended; but I have always found rubbing the part with warm ſalad-oil ſucceed very well. Indeed, when the ſtings are ſo numerous as to endanger the patient's life, which is ſometimes the caſe, he muſt not only have oily poultices applied to the part, but muſt likewiſe be bled, and take ſome cooling medicines, as nitre or cream of tartar, and ſhould drink plentifully of diluting liquors.

It is the happineſs of this iſland to have very few poiſonous animals, and thoſe which we have are by no means of the moſt virulent kind. Nine-

tenths of the effects attributed to poiſon or venom, in this country, are really other diſeaſes, and proceed from quite different cauſes.

We cannot however make the ſame obſervation with regard to poiſonous vegetables. Theſe abound every where, and prove often fatal to the ignorant and unwary. This indeed is chiefly owing to careleſſneſs. Children ought early to be cautioned againſt eating any kind of fruit, roots, or berries, which they do not know; and all poiſonous plants to which they can have acceſs, ought, as far as poſſible, to be deſtroyed. This would not be ſo difficult a taſk as ſome people may imagine. Poiſonous plants have no doubt their uſe, and they ought to be propagated in proper places; but, as they prove often deſtructive to cattle, they ſhould be rooted out of all paſture-grounds. They ought likewiſe, for the ſafety of the human ſpecies, to be deſtroyed in the neighbourhood of all towns and villages; which, by the by, are the places where they moſt commonly abound. I have ſeen the poiſonous hemlock, henbane, wolfsbane, thorn-apple, and the deadly night-ſhade, all growing within the *environs* of a ſmall town, where, though ſeveral perſons, within the memory of thoſe living in it, had loſt their lives by one or other of theſe plants; yet no method, that I could hear of, had ever been taken to root them out; though this might be done at a very trifling expence.

Seldom a year paſſes but we have accounts of ſeveral perſons poiſoned by eating hemlock-roots inſtead

inſtead of parſnips, or ſome kinds of fungus which they had gathered for muſhrooms. Theſe examples ought to put people upon their guard with reſpect to the former, and to put the latter entirely out of uſe. Muſhrooms may be a delicate diſh, but they are a dangerous one, as they are generally gathered by perſons who do not know one kind of fungus from another, and take every thing for a muſhroom which has that appearance.

We might here mention many other plants and animals of a poiſonous nature which are found in foreign countries; but, as our obſervations are chiefly intended for this iſland, we ſhall paſs theſe over. It may not however be amiſs to obſerve, for the behoof of ſuch of our countrymen as go to America, that an effectual remedy is now ſaid to be found for the bite of the rattleſnake.—The preſcription is as follows: Take of the roots of plantane and horehound, in ſummer, roots and branches together, a ſufficient quantity; bruiſe them in a mortar, and ſqueeze out the juice, of which give, as ſoon as poſſible, one large ſpoonful; if the patient be ſwelled, you muſt force it down his throat. This generally will cure; but, if he finds no relief in an hour after, you may give another ſpoonful, which never fails.—If the roots are dried, they muſt be moiſtened with a little water. To the wound may be applied a a leaf of good tobacco moiſtened with rum.

We give this upon the faith of Dr. Brookes, who ſays it was the invention of a negro; for the diſcovery

diſcovery of which he had his freedom purchaſed, and a hundred pounds *per annum* ſettled upon him during life, by the General Aſſembly of Carolina.

It is poſſible that there may be in nature ſpecific remedies for every kind of poiſon; but as we have very little faith in any of thoſe which have yet been diſcovered, we ſhall beg leave again to recommend the moſt ſtrict attention to the following rules, *viz.* That when any poiſonous ſubſtance has been taken into the ſtomach, it ought, as ſoon as poſſible, to be diſcharged by vomits, clyſters, and purges; and, when poiſon has been received into the body by a wound, that it be expelled by medicines which promote the different ſecretions, eſpecially theſe of ſweat, urine, and inſenſible perſpiration; to which may be joined antiſpaſmodics, or ſuch medicines as take off tenſion and irritation; the chief of which are opium, muſk, camphire, aſafœtida, and ſuch like.

CHAP.

CHAP. XLV.

DISORDERS OF THE SENSES.

WE do not mean to treat of the nature of our ſenſations, nor to give a minute deſcription of the various organs by which they are performed; but to point out ſome of the diſeaſes to which theſe organs are moſt liable, and to ſhew how they may be prevented or remedied.

OF THE EYE.

No organ of the body is ſubject to more diſeaſes than the eye; nor is there any one of which the diſeaſes are more difficult to cure. More ignorant perſons, however, pretend to cure theſe than any other claſs of diſeaſes; but a very ſuperficial acquaintance with the ſtructure of the eye, and the nature of viſion, will be ſufficient to convince any one of the danger of truſting to them. Theſe diſeaſes often exceed the ſkill of the moſt learned phyſician; hence we may eaſily infer the danger of truſting them to ignorant quacks, who, without all peradventure, put out more eyes than they cure. But, though the diſeaſes of the eye can ſeldom be cured, they might often, by due care, be prevented; and, even where the ſight is totally loſt, many things might be done, which are generally neglected,

neglected, to render the unhappy perſon both more uſeful to himſelf and to ſociety *.

The eyes are hurt by viewing bright or luminous objects; keeping the head too long in a hanging poſture; violent headachs; exceſſive venery; the long uſe of bitters; the effluvia from acrid or volatile ſubſtances; various diſeaſes; as the ſmall-pox, meaſles, &c. but, above all, from night-watching and candle-light ſtudies. Long faſting is likewiſe hurtful to the eyes; and frequent heats and colds are very pernicious. The eyes are often hurt by the ſtoppage of cuſtomary evacuations; as morning ſweats; ſweating of the feet; the menſes in women; and the bleeding piles in men, &c. All kinds of exceſs are likewiſe hurtful to the ſight, particularly the immoderate uſe of ardent ſpirits and other ſtrong liquors.

* It is a ſhameful thing that thoſe who have the misfortune to be born blind, or to loſe their ſight, ſhould be ſuffered to remain in ignorance, or to beg. This is both cruelty and want of œconomy. There are many employments of which blind perſons are very capable, as knitting, carding, turning a wheel, teaching languages, &c. Nor are inſtances wanting of perſons who have arrived at the higheſt pitch of learning without having the leaſt idea of light. Witneſs the late famous Nicholas Sanderſon of Cambridge, and the no leſs famous Dr. Thomas Blacklock of Edinburgh. The former was one of the firſt mathematicians of his age, and the latter, beſides being a good poet and philoſopher, is maſter of all the learned languages, and a very conſiderable adept in moſt of the liberal arts.

In all diſeaſes of the eyes, eſpecially thoſe attended with inflammation, the cool regimen ought to be obſerved. The patient muſt abſtain from all ſpirituous liquors. The ſmoke of tobacco, ſmoky rooms, the vapours of onions and garlic, and all vivid lights and glaring colours are carefully to be avoided. The drink may be water, whey, or ſmall-beer; and the aliment muſt be light of digeſtion.

For preventing diſorders of the eyes, iſſues and ſetons are of prime uſe. Every perſon whoſe eyes are tender, ought to have one or more of theſe in ſome proper part of the body. It will likewiſe be of uſe to keep the body gently open, and either to bleed or purge every ſpring and fall. All exceſs and night-ſtudies are carefully to be avoided. Such as do not chuſe a ſeton or an iſſue, will find great benefit from wearing a ſmall burgundy-pitch plaſter between their ſhoulders.

A *gutta ſerena*, or *amauroſis*, is an abolition of the ſight without any apparent cauſe or fault in the eyes. When it is owing to a decay or waſting of the optic nerve, it does not admit of a cure; but when it proceeds from a compreſſion of the nerves by redundant humours, theſe may be in ſome meaſure drained off, and the patient relieved. For this purpoſe, the belly muſt be kept open with the laxative mercurial pills. If the patient be young, and of a ſanguine habit, he may be bled. Cupping, with ſcarifications on the back part of the head, will likewiſe be of uſe. A running at

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the noſe may be promoted by volatile ſalts, ſtimulating powders, &c. But the moſt likely means for relieving the patient, are iſſues or bliſters kept open for a long time on the back part of the head, behind the ears, or on the neck. I have known theſe reſtore ſight even after it had been for a conſiderable time loſt.

Should theſe fail, recourſe muſt be had to a mercurial ſalivation; or, what will perhaps anſwer the purpoſe better, twelve grains of the corroſive ſublimate of mercury may be diſſolved in an Engliſh pint and a half of brandy, and a table-ſpoonful of it taken twice a-day, drinking half a pint of the decoction of ſarſaparilla after it.

A *cataract* is an obſtruction of the pupil, by the interpoſition of ſome opaque ſubſtance which either diminiſhes or totally extinguiſhes the ſight. It is generally an opacity of the chryſtalline humour. In a recent or beginning cataract, the ſame medicines are to be uſed as in the gutta ſerena; and they will ſometimes ſucceed. But when this does not happen, and the cataract becomes firm, it muſt be couched, or rather extracted. I have reſolved a recent cataract by giving the patient frequent purges with calomel, keeping a poultice of freſh hemlock conſtantly upon the eye, and a perpetual bliſter on the neck.

The *myopia*, or *ſhort-ſightedneſs*, and the *preſbytopia*, or *ſeeing only at too great a diſtance*, are diſorders which depend on the original ſtructure or

figure of the eye, therefore admit of no cure. The inconveniencies ariſing from them may however be, in ſome meaſure, remedied by the help of proper glaſſes. The former requires the aid of a concave, and the latter of a convex glaſs.

A *ſtrabiſmus*, or *ſquinting*, depends upon an irregular contraction of the muſcles of the eye from a ſpaſm, palſy, epilepſy, or an ill habit. Children often contract this diſorder by having one of their eyes too much expoſed to the light. They may likewiſe acquire it by imitation from a ſquinting nurſe or playfellow, *&c.* As this diſorder can hardly be cured, parents ought to be careful to prevent it. Almoſt the only thing which can be done for it is, to contrive a maſk for the child to wear, which will only permit him to ſee in a ſtrait direction.

Spots or *ſpecks* on the eyes, are generally the effect of inflammation, and often appear after the ſmall-pox, the meaſles, or violent ophthalmias. They are very difficult to cure, and often occaſion total blindneſs. If the ſpecks are ſoft and thin, they may ſometimes be taken off by gentle cauſtics and diſcutients; as vitriol, the juice of celandine, *&c.* When theſe do not ſucceed, a ſurgical operation may be tried: The ſucceſs of this however is always very doubtful.

The *blood-ſhot eye* may be occaſioned by a ſtroke, a fall, retching, vomiting, violent coughing, *&c.* I have frequently known it happen to children in the hooping-cough. It appears at firſt like a bit

of

of ſcarlet, and is afterwards of a livid or blackiſh colour. This diſorder generally goes off without medicine. Should it prove obſtinate, the patient may be bled, and have his eyes fomented with a decoction of comphry roots and elder flowers. A ſoft poultice may be applied to the eyes; and the body ſhould be kept open by gentle purgatives.

The *watery*, or *weeping eye*, is generally occaſioned by a relaxation or weakneſs of the glandular parts of the eye. Theſe may be braced and ſtrengthened by bathing the eye with brandy and water, Hungary-water, roſe-water with white vitriol diſſolved in it, *&c.* Medicines which make a revulſion are likewiſe proper; as mild purgatives, perpetual bliſters on the neck, bathing the feet frequently in lukewarm water, *&c.*

When this diſeaſe proceeds from an obſtruction of the lachrymal duct, or natural paſſage of the tears, it is called a *fiſtula lachrymalis*, and can only be cured by a ſurgical operation.

OF THE EAR.

The functions of the ear may be injured by wounds, ulcers, or any thing that hurts its fabric. The hearing may likewiſe be hurt by exceſſive noiſe; violent colds in the head; fevers; hard wax, or other ſubſtances ſticking in the cavity of the ear; too great a degree of moiſture or dryneſs of the ear. Deafneſs is very often the effect of old

age,

age, and is incident to moſt people in the decline of life. Sometimes it is owing to an original fault in the ſtructure or formation of the ear itſelf. When this is the caſe, it admits of no cure; and the unhappy perſon not only continues deaf, but generally likewiſe dumb, for life *.

* Though thoſe perſons who have the misfortune to be born deaf are generally ſuffered to continue dumb, and conſequently are in a great meaſure loſt to ſociety, yet nothing is more certain than that ſuch perſons can be taught, not only to read and write, but alſo to ſpeak, and to underſtand what others ſay to them. Teaching the dumb to ſpeak will appear paradoxical to thoſe who do not conſider that the formation of ſounds is mercly mechanical, and may be taught without the aſſiſtance of the ear. This is not only capable of demonſtration, but is actually reduced to practice by the ingenious Mr. Thomas Braidwood of Edinburgh. This gentleman has, by the mere force of genius and application, brought the teaching of dumb perſons to ſuch a degree of perfection, that his ſcholars are actually more forward in their education than thoſe of the ſame age who enjoy all their faculties. They not only read and write with the utmoſt readineſs, but likewiſe *ſpeak*, and are capable of holding converſation with any perſon in the light. What a pity any of the human ſpecies ſhould remain in a ſtate of idiotiſm who are capable of being rendered as uſeful and intelligent as others! We mention this not only from humanity to thoſe who have the misfortune to be born deaf, but alſo in juſtice to Mr. Braidwood, whoſe ſucceſs has far exceeded all former attempts this way; and indeed it exceeds imagination itſelf ſo far, that no perſon who has not ſeen and examined his pupils can believe what they are capable of.—As this gentleman, however willing, is only able to teach a few, and as the far greater part of thoſe who are born deaf cannot afford to attend him, it would be an act of great humanity, as well as of public utility, to erect an academy for their behoof.

When deafneſs is the effect of wounds or ulcers of the ears, or of old age, it is not eaſily removed. When it proceeds from cold of the head, the patient muſt be careful to keep his head warm, eſpecially in the night; he ſhould likewiſe take ſome gentle purges, and keep his feet warm, and bathe them frequently in lukewarm water at bedtime. When deafneſs is the effect of a fever, it generally goes off after the patient recovers. If it proceeds from dry wax ſticking in the ears, it may be ſoftened by dropping oil into them; afterwards they muſt be ſyringed with warm milk and water.

If deafneſs proceeds from dryneſs of the ears, which may be known by looking into them, half an ounce of the oil of ſweet almonds, and the ſame quantity of liquid apodeldoch, or tincture of aſafœtida, may be mixed together, and a few drops of it put into the ear every night at bedtime, ſtopping them afterwards with a little wool or cotton. Some, inſtead of oil, put a ſmall ſlice of the fat of bacon into each ear, which is ſaid to anſwer the purpoſe very well. When the ears abound with moiſture, it may be drained off by an iſſue or ſeton, which ſhould be made as near the affected parts as poſſible.

Some, for the cure of deafneſs, recommend the gall of an eel mixed with ſpirit of wine, to be dropped into the ear; others, equal parts of Hungary-water and ſpirit of lavender. Etmuler extols amber

amber and muſk; and Brookes ſays, he has often known hardneſs of hearing cured by putting a grain or two of muſk into the ear with cotton-wool. But theſe and other applications muſt be varied according to the cauſe of the diſorder.

Though ſuch applications may ſometimes be of ſervice, yet they much oftener fail, and frequently they do hurt. Neither the eyes nor ears ought to be tampered with; they are tender organs, and require a very delicate touch. For this reaſon, what we would chiefly recommend in deafneſs, is to keep the head warm. From whatever cauſe the diſorder proceeds, this is always proper; and I have known more benefit from it alone, in the moſt obſtinate caſes of deafneſs, than from all the medicines I ever uſed.

OF THE TASTE AND SMELL.

Though theſe ſenſes are not of ſo great importance to man in a ſtate of ſociety, as the ſight and hearing, yet, as the loſs of them is attended with ſome inconveniency, they deſerve our notice. They are ſeldom to be reſtored when loſt, which ought to make us very attentive to their preſervation, by carefully avoiding whatever may in the leaſt prove injurious to them. As there is a very great affinity betwixt the organs of taſting and ſmelling, whatever hurts the one generally affects the other.

Luxury is highly injurious to theſe organs. When the noſe and palate are frequently ſtimulated by fragrant and poignant diſhes, they ſoon loſe the power of diſtinguiſhing taſtes and odours with any degree of nicety. Man, in a ſtate of nature, may perhaps have theſe faculties as acute as any other animal.

The ſenſe of ſmelling may be diminiſhed or deſtroyed by diſeaſes; as, the moiſture, dryneſs, inflammation or ſuppuration of that membrane which lines the inſide of the noſe, commonly called the olfactory membrane; the compreſſion of the nerves which ſupply this membrane, or ſome fault in the brain itſelf at their origin. A defect, or too great a degree of ſolidity, of the ſmall ſpungy bones of the upper jaw, the caverns of the forehead, *&c.* may likewiſe impair the ſenſe of ſmelling. It may alſo be injured by a collection of fœtid matter in thoſe caverns, which keeps conſtantly exhaling from them. Few things are more hurtful to the ſenſe of ſmelling than taking great quantities of ſnuff.

When the noſe abounds with moiſture, after gentle evacuations, ſuch things as tend to take off irritation, and coagulate the thin ſharp ſerum, may be applied; as the oil of aniſe mixed with fine flour; camphire diſſolved in oil of almonds, *&c.* The vapours of amber, frankincenſe, gum-maſtic, and benjamin, may likewiſe be received into the noſe and mouth.

For

For moiſtening the mucus when it is too dry, ſome recommend ſnuff made of the leaves of marjoram, mixed with oil of amber, marjoram, and aniſeed; or a ſternutatory of calcined white vitriol; twelve grains of which may be mixed with two ounces of marjoram-water, and filtrated. The ſteam or vapour of vinegar upon hot iron received up the noſtrils is likewiſe of uſe for ſoftening the mucus, opening obſtructions, &c.

If there be an ulcer in the noſe, it muſt be dreſſed with ſome emollient ointment, to which, if the pain be very great, a little laudanum may be added. If it be a venereal ulcer, it is not to be cured without mercury. In that caſe, the ſolution of the corroſive ſublimate in brandy may be taken, as directed in the gutta ſerena. The ulcer ought likewiſe to be waſhed with it; and the fumes of cinnabar may be received up the noſtrils.

If there be reaſon to ſuſpect that the nerves which ſupply the organs of ſmelling are inert, or want ſtimulating, volatile ſalts, ſtrong ſnuffs, and other things which occaſion ſneezing, may be applied to the noſe. The forehead may likewiſe be anointed with balſam of Peru, to which may be added a little of the oil of amber.

The taſte may be diminiſhed by cruſts, filth, mucus, apthæ, pellicles, warts, &c. covering the tongue: It may be depraved by a fault of the ſaliva, which, being diſcharged into the mouth, gives the ſame ſenſation as if the food which the perſon takes, had

really a bad taſte; or it may be entirely deſtroyed by injuries done to the nerves of the tongue and palate. Few things prove more hurtful either to the ſenſe of taſting or ſmelling than obſtinate colds, eſpecially thoſe which affect the head.

When the taſte is diminiſhed by filth, mucus, *&c.* the tongue ought to be ſcraped and frequently waſhed with a mixture of water, vinegar, and honey, or ſome other detergent. When the ſaliva is vitiated, which ſeldom happens, unleſs in fevers or other diſeaſes, the curing of the diſorder is the cure of this ſymptom. To relieve it however in the mean time, the following things may be of uſe: If there be a bitter taſte, it may be taken away by vomits, purges, and other things which evacuate bile: What is called a nidorous taſte, ariſing from putrid humours, is corrected by the juice of citrons, oranges, and other acids: A ſalt taſte is cured by plentiful dilution with watery liquors: An acid taſte is deſtroyed by abſorbents and alkaline ſalts, as powder of oyſter-ſhells, ſalt of wormwood, *&c.*

When the ſenſibility of the nerves which ſupply the organs of taſte ſeems to be diminiſhed, the chewing of horſeraddiſh, or other ſtimulating ſubſtances, will help to recover it.

OF

OF THE TOUCH.

The ſenſe of touching may be hurt by any thing that obſtructs the nervous influence, or prevents its being regularly conveyed to the organs of touching; as preſſure; extreme cold, *&c.* It may likewiſe be hurt by too great a degree of ſenſibility, when the nerve is not ſufficiently covered by the cuticle or ſkarfſkin, or where there is too great a tenſion of it, or it is too delicate. Whatever diſorders the functions of the brain and nerves, hurts the ſenſe of touching. Hence it appears to proceed from the ſame general cauſes as palſy and apoplexy, and requires nearly the ſame method of treatment.

In a *ſtupor*, or defect of touching, which ariſes from an obſtruction of the cutaneous nerves, the patient muſt firſt be purged; afterwards ſuch medicines as excite the action of the nerves, or ſtimulate the ſyſtem, may be uſed. For this purpoſe, the ſpirit of hartſhorn, *ſal volatile oleoſum*, horſeraddiſh, *&c.* may be taken inwardly; the diſordered parts, at the ſame time, may be frequently rubbed with freſh nettles or ſpirit of *ſal ammoniac.* Bliſtering plaſters and ſinapiſms applied to the parts will likewiſe be of uſe, as alſo warm bathing, eſpecially in the natural hot baths.

CHAP. XLVI.

OF A SCIRRHUS AND CANCER.

A SCIRRHUS is a hard indolent tumour ſeated in ſome of the glands; as the breaſts, the armpits, *&c.* If the tumour becomes large, unequal, of a livid, blackiſh or leaden colour, and is attended with violent pain, it gets the name of an *occult cancer*. When the ſkin is broken, and a *ſanies* or ichorous matter of an abominably fœtid ſmell is diſcharged from the ſore, it is called an open or ulcerated cancer. Perſons after the age of 45, particularly women, and thoſe who lead an indolent ſedentary life, are moſt ſubject to this diſeaſe.

CAUSES.——This diſeaſe is often owing to ſuppreſſed evacuations; hence it proves ſo frequently fatal to women of a groſs habit, particularly old maids and widows, about the time when the menſtrual flux ceaſes. It may likewiſe be occaſioned by exceſſive grief, fear, anger, religious melancholy, or any of the depreſſing paſſions. Hence the unfortunate, the choleric, and thoſe perſons who devote themſelves to a religious life in convents or monaſteries, are often afflicted with it. It may alſo be occaſioned by the long continued uſe of food that is too hard of digeſtion, or of an acrid nature; by barrenneſs; celibacy; indolence;

indolence; cold; blows; friction; preſſure; or the like. Women often ſuffer from the laſt of theſe by means of their ſtays, which ſqueeze and compreſs their breaſts ſo as to occaſion great miſchief. Sometimes the diſeaſe is owing to an hereditary diſpoſition.

SYMPTOMS.——This diſorder ſeems often very trifling at the beginning. A hard tumour about the ſize of a hazle nut, or perhaps ſmaller, is generally the firſt ſymptom. This will often continue for a long time without ſeeming to increaſe, or giving the patient great uneaſineſs; but if the conſtitution be hurt, or the tumour irritated by preſſure, or improper treatment of any kind, it begins to extend itſelf towards the neighbouring parts by puſhing out a kind of roots or limbs. It then gets the name of *cancer*, from a fancied reſemblance betwixt theſe limbs and the claws of a crab. The colour of the ſkin begins to change, which is firſt red, afterwards purple, then bluiſh, livid, and at laſt black. The patient complains of heat, with a burning, gnawing, ſhooting pain. The tumour is very hard, rough, and unequal, with a protuberance, or riſing, in the middle; its ſize increaſes daily, and the neighbouring veins become thick, knotty, and of a blackiſh colour.

The ſkin at length gives way, and a thin, ſharp ichor begins to flow, which corrodes the neighbouring parts till it forms a large unſightly ulcer. More occult cancers ariſe, and communicate with the neighbouring glands. The pain

and

and ſtench become intolerable; the appetite fails; the ſtrength is exhauſted by a continual hectic fever; at laſt, a violent hæmorrhage, or diſcharge of blood, from ſome part of the body, with faintings, or convulſion fits, generally put an end to the miſerable patient's life.

REGIMEN.——The diet ought to be light, but nouriſhing, All ſtrong liquors, high-ſeaſoned and ſalted proviſions, are to be avoided. The patient may take as much exerciſe as he can eaſily bear; and ſhould uſe every method to divert thought, and amuſe his fancy. All kinds of external injury are carefully to be guarded againſt, particularly of the affected part, which ought to be defended from all preſſure, and even from the external air, by covering it with fur or ſoft flannel.

MEDICINE.——This is one of thoſe diſeaſes for which no certain remedy is yet known. Its progreſs however may ſometimes be retarded, and ſome of its moſt diſagreeable ſymptoms mitigated by proper applications. One misfortune attending the diſeaſe is, that the unhappy patient often conceals it too long. Were proper means uſed in due time, a cancer might often be cured; but, after the diſorder has arrived at a certain height, it generally ſets all medicine at defiance.

When a ſcirrhous tumour is firſt diſcovered, the patient ought to obſerve a proper regimen, and to take twice or thrice a-week a doſe of the common purging mercurial pill. He may likewiſe be bled; and the part affected may be gently rubbed twice

a-day

a-day with a little of the mercurial ointment, and kept warm with fur or flannel. His food muſt be light, and he may drink daily an Engliſh pint of the decoction of woods or ſarſaparilla. I have ſometimes diſcuſſed hard tumours, which had the appearance of beginning cancers, by a courſe of this kind.

Should the tumour however not yield to this treatment, but, on the contrary, become larger and harder, it will be proper to extirpate it. Indeed, whenever this can be done with ſafety, the ſooner it is done the better. It can anſwer no purpoſe to extirpate a cancer after the conſtitution is ruined, or the whole maſs of humours corrupted by it. This however is the common way, which makes the operation ſo ſeldom ſucceed. Few people will ſubmit to the extirpation till death ſtares them in the face; whereas, if it were done early, the patient would be in no danger of loſing his life by the operation, and it would generally prove a radical cure.

When the cancer is ſo ſituated that it cannot be cut off, or, if the patient will not ſubmit to the operation, ſuch medicines as will mitigate or relieve the moſt urgent ſymptoms may be uſed. Dr. Home ſays, that half a grain of the corroſive ſublimate of mercury, diſſolved in a proper quantity of brandy, and taken night and morning, will often be of ſervice in cancers of the face and noſe. He likewiſe recommends an infuſion of the *ſolanum*, or nightſhade, in cancers of the breaſts.

But

But the medicine moſt in repute at preſent for this diſeaſe is hemlock. Dr. Stork, phyſician at Vienna, has of late recommended the extract of this plant as very efficacious in cancers of every kind. The Dr. ſays he has given ſome hundred weights of it without ever hurting any body, and often with manifeſt advantage. He adviſes the patient however to begin with very ſmall doſes, as two or three grains, and to increaſe the doſe gradually till ſome good effect be perceived, and there to reſt without further increaſe. From two or three grains at firſt, the Dr. ſays he has increaſed the doſe to two, three, or four drams a-day, and finds that ſuch doſes may be continued for ſeveral weeks without any bad conſequences.

The regimen which the Dr. recommends during the uſe of the medicine, is to avoid farinaceous ſubſtances not fermented, and too acrid aromatics. He ſays, good wine will not be hurtful to thoſe who are accuſtomed to it, nor a moderate uſe of acids; and adds, that the patient ſhould live in a pure free air, and keep his mind as quiet and cheerful as poſſible.

The Dr. does not pretend to fix the time in which a cancer may be reſolved by the uſe of hemlock, but ſays he has given it for above two years in large doſes without any apparent benefit; nevertheleſs, the patient has been cured by perſiſting in the uſe of it for half a year longer. This is at leaſt encouragement to give it a fair trial. Though we are far from thinking the hemlock

merits thoſe extravagant encomiums which the Dr. has beſtowed upon it, yet, in a diſeaſe which has ſo long baffled the boaſted powers of medicine, we think it ought always to be tried.

The powder of hemlock is by ſome preferred to the extract. They are both made of the freſh leaves, and may be uſed nearly in the ſame manner. Dr. Nicholſon of Berwick ſays, he gradually increaſed the doſe of the powder from a few grains to half a dram, and gave near four drams of it in the day with remarkably good effects. The hemlock may alſo be uſed externally either as a poultice or fomentation. The ſore may likewiſe be kept clean by injecting daily a ſtrong decoction of the tops and leaves into it.

Few things contribute more to the healing of foul ſordid ulcers of any kind than keeping them thoroughly clean. This ought never to be neglected. The beſt application for this purpoſe ſeems to be the carrot poultice. The root of the common carrot may be grated, and moiſtened with as much water as will bring it to the conſiſtence of a poultice or cataplaſm. This muſt be applied to the ſore, and renewed twice a-day. It generally cleans the ſore, eaſes the pain, and takes away the diſagreeable ſmell, which are objects of no ſmall importance in ſuch a dreadful diſorder*.

Wort, or an infuſion of malt, has been recommended not only as a proper drink, but as a powerful medicine in this diſeaſe. It muſt be fre-

* London Medical Eſſays.

quently

quently made freſh, and the patient may take it at pleaſure. Two, three, or even four Engliſh pints of it may be drank every day for a conſiderable time. No benefit can be expected from any medicine in this diſeaſe unleſs it be perſiſted in for a long time. It is of too obſtinate a nature to be ſoon removed; and, when it admits of a cure at all, it muſt be brought about by inducing an almoſt total change of the habit, which muſt always be a work of time. Setons or iſſues in the neighbourhood of the cancer have ſometimes good effects.

When all other medicines fail, recourſe muſt be had to opium, as a kind of ſolace. This will not indeed cure the diſeaſe, but it will eaſe the patient's agony, and render life more tolerable while it continues.

To avoid this dreadful diſorder, people ought to uſe wholeſome food; to take ſufficient exerciſe in the open air; to be as eaſy and cheerful as poſſible; and carefully to guard againſt all blows, bruiſes, and every kind of preſſure upon the breaſts or other glandular parts *.

* As hemlock is the principal medicine recommended in this diſeaſe, we would have given ſome directions for the gathering and preparing of that plant; but as its different preparations are now kept in the ſhops, we think it much ſafer for people to get them there, with proper directions for uſing them.

CHAP. XLVII.

OF THE VENEREAL DISEASE.

IN a former edition of this book the venereal diſeaſe was omitted. The reaſons however which at that time induced me to leave it out, have upon more mature conſideration vaniſhed. Bad conſequences, no doubt, may ariſe from ignorant perſons tampering with medicine in this diſorder; but the danger from that quarter ſeems to be more than balanced by the great and ſolid advantages, which muſt ariſe to the patient from an early knowledge of his caſe, and an attention to a plan of regimen, which, if it does not cure the diſeaſe, will be ſure to render it more mild, and leſs hurtful to the conſtitution.

IT is peculiarly unfortunate for the unhappy perſons who contract this diſeaſe, that it ſtill lies under a ſort of diſgrace. This renders diſguiſe neceſſary, and makes the patient either conceal his diſorder altogether, or apply to thoſe who promiſe a ſudden and ſecret cure; but who in fact only remove the ſymptoms for a time, while they fix the diſeaſe deeper in the habit. By this means a ſlight infection, which might have been cured by regimen alone, is often converted into an obſtinate, and ſometimes incurable malady.

ANOTHER unfavourable circumſtance attending this diſeaſe is, that it aſſumes a variety of different

ſhapes, and may with more propriety be called an aſſemblage of diſeaſes, than a ſingle one. No two diſeaſes can require a more different method of treatment than the venereal diſorder does in its different ſtages. Hence the folly and danger of truſting to any particular noſtrum for the cure of this diſeaſe, muſt be obvious to all. Such noſtrums are however generally adminiſtered in the ſame manner to all who apply for them, without the leaſt regard to the ſtate of the diſeaſe, the conſtitution of the patient, the degree of infection, and a thouſand other circumſtances which are of the utmoſt importance.

Though the venereal diſeaſe is generally the fruit of unlawful love, yet it may be communicated to the innocent as well as the guilty. Infants, nurſes, midwives, and married women whoſe huſbands lead diſſolute lives, are often affected with it, and frequently loſe their lives by not being aware of their danger in due time. The unhappy condition of ſuch perſons will certainly plead our excuſe, if any excuſe be neceſſary, for endeavouring to point out the ſymptoms and cure of this too common diſeaſe.

To enumerate all its different ſymptoms, however, and to trace the diſeaſe minutely through its various ſtages, would require a much larger ſpace than we have allotted to this part of our ſubject; we ſhall therefore confine our obſervations chiefly to circumſtances of importance, omitting ſuch as are either trifling, or which occur but ſeldom. We ſhall likewiſe paſs over the hiſtory of the diſeaſe, with

with the different methods of treatment which it has undergone, ſince it was firſt introduced into Europe, and many other circumſtances of a ſimilar nature; all of which, though they might tend to amuſe the reader, yet could afford him little or no uſeful knowledge.

OF THE VIRULENT GONORRHŒA.

The virulent gonorrhœa is an involuntary diſcharge of infectious matter from the parts of generation in either ſex. It generally makes its appearance within eight or ten days after the infection has been received; ſometimes indeed it appears in two or three days, and at other times not before the end of four or five weeks. Previous to the diſcharge, the patient feels an itching with a ſmall degree of pain in the genitals. Afterwards a thin glary matter begins to diſtil from the urinary paſſage which ſtains the linen, and occaſions a ſmall degree of titillation, particularly in the time of making water; this, gradually increaſing, ariſes at length to a degree of heat and pain which are chiefly perceived about the extremity of the urinary paſſage, where a ſlight degree of redneſs and inflammation likewiſe begin to appear.

As the diſorder advances, the pain, heat of urine, and running increaſe, while freſh ſymptoms daily enſue. In men the erections become painful and involuntary, and are more frequent and laſting than when natural. This ſymptom is moſt troubleſome

when the patient is warm in bed. The pain which was at firſt only perceived towards the extremity, now begins to reach all up the urinary paſſage, and is moſt intenſe juſt after the patient has done making water. The running gradually recedes from the colour of ſeed, grows yellow, and at length puts on the appearance of matter.

When the diſorder is arrived at its height, all the ſymptoms are more intenſe; the heat of urine is ſo great, that the patient dreads the making of it, and, though he feels a conſtant inclination this way, yet it is rendered with the greateſt difficulty, and often only by drops: the involuntary erections now become extremely painful and frequent; there is alſo a pain, heat, and ſenſe of fulneſs about the ſeat, and the running is plentiful and ſharp, of a brown, greeniſh, and ſometimes of a bloody colour.

By a proper regimen and medicines, the violence of the ſymptoms gradually abates; the heat of urine goes off; the involuntary and painful erections, and the heat and pain about the ſeat become eaſier; the running alſo gradually decreaſes, grows whiter and thicker, till at laſt it entirely diſappears.

By attending to theſe ſymptoms, the gonorrhœa may be pretty readily diſtinguiſhed from any other diſeaſe. There are however ſome few diſorders for which it may be miſtaken, as an ulcer in the kidnies or bladder, the *fluor albus* or whites in women, *&c.* But in the former of theſe, the matter comes away only with the urine, or when the ſphincter

ſphincter of the bladder is open; whereas in a gonorrhœa, the diſcharge is conſtant. The latter is more difficult to diſtinguiſh, and muſt be known chiefly from its effects, as pain, communicating the infection, &c.

REGIMEN.——When a perſon has reaſon to ſuſpect that he has caught the venereal infection, he ought moſt ſtrictly to obſerve a cooling regimen, to avoid every thing of a heating nature, as wines, ſpirituous liquors, rich ſauces, ſpiced, ſalted, high-ſeaſoned, and ſmoke-dried proviſions, &c.; as alſo all aromatic and ſtimulating vegetables, as onions, garlic, ſhallot, nutmeg, cinnamon, mace, ginger, and ſuch like. His food ought chiefly to conſiſt of mild vegetables, milk, broths, light puddings, panado, gruels, &c. His drink may be barley-water, milk and water, decoctions of marſhmallows and liquorice, linſeed tea; or, if the patient has been accuſtomed to live high, ſmall beer or weak negas. Venereal pleaſures and violent exerciſes of all kinds, eſpecially riding on horſeback, are to be avoided. The patient muſt beware of catching cold, and when the inflammation is violent, he ought to keep his bed.

MEDICINE.——A virulent gonorrhœa can ſeldom be cured ſpeedily and effectually at the ſame time. The patient ought therefore not to expect, nor the phyſician to promiſe it. It will often continue for two or three months, and ſometimes for five or ſix, even where the treatment has been very proper. Sometimes, indeed, a gonorrhœa may be

cured at the beginning by aſtringent injections. Theſe may be prepared by diſſolving half a dram of ſugar of lead in ſix ounces of roſe-water. Of this the ſyringe may be thrown up the urethra five or ſix times a-day a little warm, and continued till the running ſtops.

Purges are of very great importance in the gonorrhœa. They ought not however to be of the ſtrong or draſtic kind. Whatever raiſes a violent commotion in the body increaſes the danger, and tends to drive the diſeaſe deeper into the habit. Procuring two or three ſtools every ſecond or third day for the firſt fortnight, and the ſame number every fourth or fifth day for the ſecond, will generally be ſufficient to remove the inflammatory ſymptoms, to diminiſh the running, and to change the colour and conſiſtence of the matter, which gradually becomes more clear and ropy as the virulence abates *.

When

* If the patient can ſwallow a ſolution of ſalts and manna, he may take ſix drams, or, if his conſtitution requires, an ounce of the former, with half an ounce of the latter. Theſe may be diſſolved in half an Engliſh pint of boiling water, whey, or thin water-gruel, and taken early in the morning.

If an infuſion of ſenna and tamarinds be more agreeable, two drams of the former, and an ounce of the latter, may be infuſed all night in half an Engliſh pint of boiling water. The infuſion may be ſtrained next morning, and half an ounce of Glauber's ſalts diſſolved in it. A ſmall tea-cupful of this infuſion may be taken every half hour till it operates.

Should the patient prefer an electuary, the following will be found to anſwer very well. Take of the lenitive electuary four

When the inflammatory ſymptoms run high, bleeding is always neceſſary at the beginning. This operation, as in other topical inflammations, muſt be repeated according to the ſtrength and conſtitution of the patient, and the vehemence and urgency of the ſymptoms.

Medicines which promote the ſecretion of urine are likewiſe proper in this ſtage of the diſorder. For this purpoſe, an ounce of nitre and two ounces of gum arabic, pounded together, may be divided into twenty-four doſes, one of which may be taken frequently in a cup of the patient's drink. If theſe ſhould make him paſs his urine ſo often as to become troubleſome to him, he may either take them leſs frequently, or leave out the nitre altogether, and take the ſame quantity of magneſia alba in its ſtead.

When the pain and inflammation are ſeated high towards the neck of the bladder, it will be proper frequently to throw up an emollient clyſter, which, beſides the benefit of procuring ſtools, will ſerve as a fomentation to the inflamed parts. Injecting frequently a little milk and water, or lin-ſeed tea about the warmth of new milk, up the urethra,

four ounces, jalap in powder two drams, rhubarb one dram, and as much of the ſyrup of pale roſes as will ſerve to make the whole into a ſoft electuary. Two tea-ſpoonfuls of this may be taken over night, and about the ſame quantity next morning, every day that the patient chuſes to take a purge. The doſes of the above medicines may be increaſed or diminiſhed according as the patient finds it neceſſary.

by means of a ſyringe, will likewiſe be of uſe. The genitals ought alſo to be bathed, or rather ſoaked in warm milk and water, two or three times a-day; which not only keeps them clean, but tends to take off the ſtricture of the veſſels, and to blunt the acrimony of the humours. We have reaſon to believe, that bathing, injections, and fomentations, if duly perſiſted in, would have far more influence in the cure of this diſeaſe than is generally imagined.

Soft poultices, when they can conveniently be applied to the parts, are of great ſervice. They may be made of the flower of linſeed, or of wheat bread and milk, ſoftened with freſh butter or ſweet oil. When poultices cannot be conveniently uſed, cloths wrung out of warm water, or bladders filled with warm milk and water, may be applied. I have often known the moſt excruciating pains, during the inflammatory ſtate of the gonorrhœa, relieved by one or other of theſe applications.

Few things tend more to keep off inflammation in the ſpermatic veſſels, than a proper truſs for the ſcrotum. It ought to be ſo contrived as to ſupport the teſticles, and ſhould be worn from the firſt appearance of the diſeaſe till it has ceaſed ſome weeks.

This treatment will ſometimes remove the gonorrhœa ſo quickly, that the perſon will be in doubt whether he really laboured under that diſeaſe. This, however, is too favourable a turn

to

to be often expected. It more frequently happens that we are only able to procure an abatement or remiſſion of the inflammatory ſymptoms, ſo far as to make it ſafe to have recourſe to the great antidote *mercury*, which in all obſtinate venereal caſes ſeems to be abſolutely neceſſary for completing the cure.

When bleeding, purging, fomentations, and the other things recommended above have eaſed the pain, ſoftened the pulſe, relieved the heat of urine, and rendered the involuntary erections leſs frequent, the patient may begin to uſe mercury in any form that is moſt agreeable to him. One of the moſt common preparations of mercury uſed in this caſe is calomel. Two or three grains of it may be made into a pill with crumb of bread, or formed into a bolus with conſerve of hips, and taken every other night at bed-time. The doſe may be gradually increaſed to eight or ten grains.

Should the patient be purged or griped in the night by the mercury, he muſt take an infuſion of ſenna, or ſome other purgative, and drink freely of water-gruel, to prevent bloody ſtools, which are very apt to happen ſhould the patient catch cold, or if the mercury has not been duly prepared. When the bowels are weak, and the mercury is apt to gripe or purge, theſe diſagreeable conſequences may be prevented by making the above quantity of calomel into a bolus, with half a dram, or two ſcruples of diaſcordium, or the Japonic confection. After the pill or bolus has

been repeated three or four times, a purging potion muſt be given, to carry off the mercury, and prevent a ſalivation.

To prevent the diſagreeable circumſtance of the mercury's affecting the mouth, or bringing on a ſalivation, it may be combined with purgatives. With this view the laxative mercurial pill has been contrived, the uſual doſe of which is half a dram, or three pills, night and morning, to be repeated every other day; but the ſafer way is for the patient to begin with two, or even with one pill, gradually increaſing the doſe.

To ſuch perſons as can neither ſwallow a bolus nor a pill, mercury may be given in a liquid form, as it can be ſuſpended even in a watery vehicle, by means of gum-arabic; which not only ſerves this purpoſe, but likewiſe prevents the mercury from affecting the mouth, and renders it in many reſpects a better medicine *.

It happens very fortunately for thoſe who cannot be brought to take mercury inwardly, and likewiſe for perſons whoſe bowels are too tender to bear it, that an external application of it will an-

* Take quickſilver one dram, gum-arabic reduced to a mucilage, two drams; let the quickſilver be rubbed with the mucilage, in a marble mortar, until the globules of mercury entirely diſappear: afterwards add gradually, ſtill continuing the trituration, half an ounce of baiſamic ſyrup, and eight ounces of ſimple cinnamon water. Two table-ſpoonfuls of this ſolution may be taken night and morning. Some reckon this [illegible] in which quickſilver can be exhibited for the [illegible].

ſwer

ſwer equally well, and, in ſome reſpects, better. It muſt be acknowledged, that mercury taken inwardly for any length of time, greatly weakens and diſorders the bowels; for which reaſon, when a plentiful uſe of it becomes neceſſary, we ſhould prefer rubbing to any other mode of application whatever. The common mercurial, or blue ointment, will anſwer very well. Of that which is made by rubbing together equal quantities of hog's lard and quickſilver, about a dram may be uſed at a time. The beſt time for rubbing it on is at night, and the moſt proper place the inner ſide of the thighs. The patient ſhould ſtand before the fire when he rubs, and ſhould wear flannel drawers next his ſkin all the time he is uſing the ointment. If ointment of a weaker or ſtronger kind be uſed, the doſe muſt be increaſed or diminiſhed accordingly.

If, during the uſe of the ointment, the inflammation of the genital parts, together with the heat and feveriſhneſs, ſhould return, or if the mouth ſhould grow ſore, the gums tender, and the breath become offenſive, a doſe or two of Glauber's ſalts, or ſome other cooling purge, may be taken, and the rubbing intermitted for a few days. As ſoon, however, as the ſigns of a ſpitting are gone off, if the virulency be not quite corrected, the ointment muſt be repeated, but in ſmaller quantities, and at longer intervals, than before. Whatever way mercury is adminiſtered,

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its uſe muſt be perſiſted in as long as any virulency is ſuſpected to remain.

During this, which may be called the ſecond ſtage of the diſorder, though ſo ſtrict a regimen is not neceſſary as in the firſt or inflammatory ſtate, yet intemperance of every kind muſt be avoided. The food muſt be light, plain, and of eaſy digeſtion: and the greateſt indulgence that may be allowed with reſpect to drink is, a little wine diluted with a ſufficient quantity of water. Spirituous liquors are to be avoided in every ſhape. I have often known the inflammatory ſymptoms renewed and heightened, the running increaſed, and the cure rendered extremely difficult and tedious, by one fit of exceſſive drinking.

When the above treatment has removed the heat of urine, and foreneſs of the genital parts; when the quantity of running is conſiderably leſſened, without any pain or ſwelling in the groin or teſticle ſupervening; when the patient is free from involuntary erections; and laſtly, when the running becomes pale, whitiſh, thick, void of ill ſmell, and tenacious or ropy; when all or moſt of theſe ſymptoms appear, the gonorrhœa is arrived at its laſt ſtage, and we may gradually proceed to the uſe of gentle aſtringents, or agglutinating medicines. Theſe, however, ought always to be uſed with caution. When the contagion is removed, the running will generally ſtop of itſelf; and when it does not, there is ſtill reaſon to fear, that the virulency is not completely

ſubdued. But this will ſoon appear; for, if the contagion be not removed, upon ſtopping the running, ſwelled teſticles, a ſore throat, buboes, or ſome other ſymptom of the pox, will enſue. When this happens, the running muſt be again promoted by purges, and more mercury muſt be uſed.

That we may proceed with caution, and not give too ſudden a check to the diſcharge, gentle aſtringents may be mixed with purgative medicines, and taken in the following manner: To two ounces of the lenitive electuary, add cream of tartar and powdered rhubarb, of each half an ounce; balſam of capivi, an ounce and a half. Let theſe be made into an electuary, with the ſyrup of pale roſes, and about the bulk of a large nutmeg taken evening and morning for a doſe.

If no bad ſymptoms enſue from uſing the above, ſtronger aſtringents, if neceſſary, may be adminiſtered, as the Venice turpentine, the peruvian balſam, balſam of Gilead, *&c.* If theſe balſams ſhould occaſion *nauſea* or ſickneſs, the patient, inſtead of them, may take fifteen or twenty drops of the acid elixir of vitriol, in a glaſs of red wine or water, twice a-day.

Should the running, notwithſtanding the uſe of theſe medicines, ſtill continue, but without any ſigns of virulency, recourſe muſt be had to aſtringent injections. For this purpoſe a little gum-arabic may be diſſolved in three or four ounces of roſe-water, to which ten or twelve grains

of

of the ſugar of lead may be added. Two or three drams of this may be daily injected up the urethra with a ſmall ſyringe. It ſhould be uſed a little warm, and may be made ſtronger as the caſe requires.

During this courſe, a proper regimen is likewiſe to be obſerved. The patient ought to take gentle exerciſe in the open air, but ſhould avoid great heat and fatigue. His diet ought to be drying and agglutinating, as biſcuit, rice, millet, jellies of hartſhorn, and other things of a ſtrengthening nature. His drink may be Briſtol water, red port or claret, with the addition of a little water. All exceſs is carefully to be avoided, and whatever may have a tendency to weaken or relax the habit.

If all theſe means ſhould prove ineffectual, and notwithſtanding the virulency is perfectly cured, a running ſhould ſtill remain, the diſorder is then denominated a *gleet*; the proper treatment whereof we ſhall next endeavour to ſhew.

OF GLEETS.

A gonorrhœa frequently repeated or improperly treated, often ends in a gleet, which may either proceed from relaxation, or from latent ulcers in ſome of the parts which had been the ſeat of the gonorrhœa. It is however of the greateſt importance in the cure of the gleet, to know from which of theſe cauſes it proceeds. When the diſcharge

proves

proves very obſtinate, and receives little or no check from aſtringent remedies, there is ground to ſuſpect that it is owing to ulcers; but if the drain is inconſtant, and is chiefly obſervable when the patient is ſtimulated by venereal ideas, or upon ſtraining to go to ſtool, we may reaſonably conclude that it is chiefly owing to relaxation.

In the cure of a gleet proceeding from relaxation, the principal deſign is to brace, and reſtore a proper degree of tenſion to the debilitated and relaxed veſſels. For this purpoſe, beſides the medicines recommended in the laſt ſtage of the gonorrhœa, the patient may have recourſe to ſtronger and more powerful aſtringents, as the peruvian bark *, alum, vitriol, galls, tormentil, biſtort, balauſtines, &c.

While the patient is taking theſe medicines the cure may be promoted by aſtringent injections, ſuch as are recommended in the laſt ſtage of the gonorrhœa, to which a few grains of alum, or white vitriol, may occaſionally be added.

The laſt remedy which we ſhall mention in this caſe is the cold bath, than which there is not perhaps a more powerful bracer in the whole

* The peruvian bark may be combined with other aſtringents, and prepared in the following manner:

Take of peruvian bark bruiſed ſix drams, of freſh galls bruiſed two drams; boil them in a pound and a half of water to a pound: to the ſtrained liquor add three ounces of the ſimple tincture of the bark. A ſmall tea-cup full of this may be taken three times a day, adding to each cup fifteen or twenty drops of the acid elixir of vitriol.

compaſs of medicine. It ought never to be omitted in this ſpecies of gleet, unleſs there be ſomething in the conſtitution of the patient which renders the uſe of it unſafe. The chief objections to the uſe of the cold bath are, a full habit, and an unſound ſtate of the viſcera. The danger from the former may always be leſſened, if not removed by bleeding; but the latter is an inſurmountable obſtacle, as the preſſure of the water, and the ſudden contraction of the external veſſels, by throwing the blood with too much force upon the internal parts are apt to occaſion ruptures of the veſſels or a flux of humours upon the diſeaſed organs. But where no objection of this kind prevails, the patient ought to plunge over head in water every morning faſting, for three or four weeks together. He ſhould not however ſtay in above three or four minutes, and ſhould take care to have his ſkin dried as ſoon as he comes out.

The regimen proper in this caſe is the ſame as was mentioned in the laſt ſtage of the gonorrhœa: the diet muſt be drying and aſtringent, and the drink Spa, Pyrmont or Briſtol waters, with which a little claret or red wine may ſometimes be mixed.

When the gleet does not in the ſmalleſt degree yield to theſe medicines, there is reaſon to ſuſpect that it proceeds from ulcers. In this caſe, recourſe muſt be had to mercury, and ſuch medicines as tend to correct any predominant acrimony with which the juices may be affected, as the decoction of china, ſarſaparilla, ſaſſafras, or the like.

Mr.

Mr. Fordyce ſays, he has ſeen many obſtinate gleets of two, three, or four years ſtanding, effectually cured by a mercurial inunction, when almoſt every other medicine had been tried in vain. Dr. Chapman ſeems to be of the ſame opinion; but ſays, he has always found the mercury ſucceed beſt in this caſe when joined with terebinthinate and other agglutinating medicines. For which reaſon the Doctor recommends pills made of calomel and Venice turpentine *; and deſires that their uſe may be accompanied with a decoction of guaiacum or ſarſaparilla.

The laſt kind of remedy which we ſhall mention for the cure of ulcers in the urinary paſſage, are the ſuppurating candles or bougies; as theſe are prepared various ways, and are generally to be got ready made, we ſhall not ſpend time in enumerating the different ingredients of which they are compoſed, or teaching the manner of preparing them: Before a bougie be introduced into the urethra, however, it ſhould be ſmeared all over with ſweet oil, to prevent it from ſtimulating too ſuddenly; it may be ſuffered to continue in from one to ſeven or eight hours, according as the patient can bear it. Obſtinate ulcers are not only

* Take Venice turpentine, boiled to a ſufficient degree of hardneſs, half an ounce, calomel half a dram. Let theſe be mixed and formed into ſixty pills, of which five or ſix may be taken night and morning. If, during the uſe of theſe pills, the mouth ſhould grow ſore, or the breath become offenſive, they muſt be diſcontinued till theſe ſymptoms diſappear.

often

often healed, but tumours and excreſcences in the urinary paſſages taken away, and an obſtruction of urine removed, by means of bougies.

OF THE SWELLED TESTICLE.

The ſwelled teſticle may either proceed from infection lately contracted, or from the venereal poiſon lurking in the blood: the latter indeed is not very common, but the former frequently happens both in the firſt and ſecond ſtages of a gonorrhœa; particularly when the running is unſeaſonably checked, from catching cold, hard drinking, ſtrong draſtic purges, violent exerciſe, the too early uſe of aſtringent medicines, *&c.*

In the inflammatory ſtage bleeding is neceſſary, which muſt be repeated according to the urgency of the ſymptoms. The food muſt be light, and the drink diluting. High-ſeaſoned food, fleſh, wines, and every thing of a heating nature, are to be avoided. Fomentations are of ſingular ſervice. Poultices of bread and milk, ſoftened with freſh butter or oil, are likewiſe very proper, and ought conſtantly to be applied when the patient is in bed: when he is up, the teſticle ſhould be kept warm, and ſupported by a bag or truſs, which may eaſily be contrived in ſuch a manner as to prevent the weight of the teſticle from having any effect.

If it ſhould be found impracticable to clear the teſticle by the cooling regimen now pointed out, and

and extended according to circumſtances, it will be neceſſary to lead the patient through ſuch a complete antivenereal courſe as ſhall enſure him againſt any future uneaſineſs. For this purpoſe, beſides rubbing the mercurial ointment on the part, if free from pain, or on the thighs, as directed in the gonorrhœa, the patient muſt be confined to bed, if neceſſary, for five or ſix weeks, ſuſpending the teſticle all the while with a bag or truſs, and plying him inwardly with ſtrong decoctions of ſarſaparilla.

When theſe means do not ſucceed, and there is reaſon to ſuſpect a ſcrophulous or cancerous habit; either of which may ſupport a ſcirrhous induration, after the venereal poiſon is corrected, the parts ſhould be fomented daily with a decoction of hemlock, the bruiſed leaves of which may likewiſe be added to the poultice, and the extract at the ſame time taken inwardly*. This practice is ſtrongly recommended by Doctor Stork in ſcirrhous and cancerous caſes; and Mr. Fordyce aſſures us, that by this method he has cured diſeaſed teſticles of two or three years ſtanding, even when ulcerated, and when the ſcirrhus had begun to be affected with pricking and lancing pains.

* The extract of hemlock may be made into pills, and taken in the manner directed under the article Cancer.

OF BUBOES.

VENEREAL buboes are hard tumours ſeated in the groin, occaſioned by the venereal poiſon lodged in this part. They are of two kinds, *viz.* ſuch as proceed from a recent infection, and ſuch as accompany a confirmed lues.

THE cure of recent buboes, that is, ſuch as appear ſoon after impure coition, may be firſt attempted by *diſperſion*, and, if that ſhould not ſucceed, by *ſuppuration*. To promote the diſperſion of a buboe, the ſame regimen muſt be obſerved as was directed in the firſt ſtage of a gonorrhœa. The patient muſt at the ſame time be bled, and take ſome cooling purges, as the decoction of tamarinds and ſenna, Glauber's ſalts, and the like. If, by this courſe, the ſwelling and other inflammatory ſymptoms abate, we may ſafely proceed to the uſe of mercury, which muſt be continued till the venereal virus is quite ſubdued.

BUT if the buboe ſhould, from the beginning, be attended with great heat, pain, and pulſation, it will be proper to promote its ſuppuration. For this purpoſe the patient may be allowed to uſe his ordinary diet, and to take now and then a glaſs of wine. Emollient cataplaſms, conſiſting of bread and milk ſoftened with oil or freſh butter, may be applied to the part; and, in cold conſtitutions, where the tumour advances ſlowly, white-lily roots boiled, or ſliced onions raw, and a ſufficient

ficient quantity of yellow baſilicon may be added to the poultice.

When the tumour is ripe, which may be known by its conical figure, the ſoftneſs of the ſkin, and a fluctuation of matter plainly to be felt under the finger, it may be opened either by cauſtic or a lancet, and afterwards dreſſed with digeſtive ointment.

It ſometimes, however, happens that buboes can neither be diſperſed nor brought to a ſuppuration, but remain hard, indolent tumours. In this caſe the indurated glands muſt be conſumed by cauſtic; but if they ſhould become ſcirrhous, they muſt be diſſolved by the application of hemlock both externally and internally, as directed in the ſcirrhous teſticle.

OF CHANCRES.

Chancres are ſuperficial, callous, eating ulcers, which may happen either with or without a gonorrhœa. They are commonly ſeated about the private parts, and make their appearance in the following manner. Firſt a little red pimple ariſes, which ſoon becomes pointed at top, and is filled with a whitiſh matter inclining to yellow. This pimple is hot, and itches generally before it breaks: afterwards it degerates into an obſtinate ulcer, the bottom of which is uſually covered with a viſcid mucus, and whoſe edges gradually become hard

and callous. Sometimes the firſt appearance reſembles a ſimple excoriation of the cuticle; which, however, if the cauſe be venereal, ſoon becomes a true chancre.

A CHANCRE is ſometimes a primary affection, but it is much oftener ſymptomatical, and is the mark of a confirmed lues. Primary chancres diſcover themſelves ſoon after impure coition, and are generally ſeated in parts covered with a thin cuticle, as the lips, the nipples of women, the *glans penis* of men, *&c.* *

WHEN a chancre appears ſoon after impure coition, its treatment is in every reſpect ſimilar to that of the virulent gonorrhœa. The patient muſt obſerve the cooling regimen, loſe a little blood, and take ſome gentle doſes of ſalts and manna. The parts affected ought frequently to be bathed, or rather ſoaked, in warm milk and water, and, if the inflammation be great, an emollient poultice or cataplaſm may be applied to

* When venereal ulcers are ſeated in the lips, the infection may be communicated by kiſſing. This ought ſurely to baniſh that ridiculous cuſtom, ſtill kept up in many parts of Britain, of kiſſing every perſon to whom one is introduced. I have ſeen very obſtinate venereal ulcers in the lips, that would not yield to any thing but a courſe of mercury, which I had all the reaſon in the world to believe were occaſioned ſolely by kiſſing an infected perſon. Nurſes ought to beware of ſuckling infected children, or having their breaſts drawn by perſons tainted with the venereal diſeaſe. This caution is peculiarly neceſſary for nurſes who reſide in the neighbourhood of great towns.

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them. This courſe will, in moſt caſes, be ſufficient to abate the inflammation, and prepare the patient for the uſe of mercury.

Symptomatic chancres are commonly accompanied with ulcers in the throat, nocturnal pains, ſcurfy eruptions about the roots of the hair, and other ſymptoms of a confirmed lues. Though they may be ſeated in any of the parts mentioned above, they commonly appear upon the private parts, or the inſide of the thigh. They are alſo leſs painful, but frequently much larger and harder than primary chancres. As their cure muſt depend upon that of the pox, of which they are only a ſymptom, we ſhall take no further notice of them, till we come to treat of a comfirmed lues.

Thus we have related moſt of the ſymptoms which accompany or ſucceed to a virulent gonorrhœa, and have alſo given a ſhort view of their proper treatment; there are, however, ſeveral others which ſometimes attend this diſeaſe, as a ſtrangury or obſtruction of urine, a phymoſis, paraphymoſis, &c.

A strangury may be occaſioned either by a ſpaſmodic conſtriction, or an inflammation of the urethra and parts about the neck of the bladder. In the former caſe, the patient begins to void his urine with tolerable eaſe; but as ſoon as it touches the galled or inflamed urethra, a ſudden conſtriction takes place, and the urine is voided by ſpurts, and ſometimes by drops only. When the ſtrangury is owing to an inflammation about the neck

of the bladder, there is a conſtant heat and uneaſineſs about this part, a perpetual deſire to make water, while the patient can only render a few drops, and a troubleſome *teneſmus*, or conſtant inclination to go to ſtool.

When the ſtrangury is owing to ſpaſm, ſuch medicines as tend to dilute and blunt the ſalts of the urine will be proper. For this purpoſe, beſides the common diluting liquors, ſoft and cooling emulſions, ſweetened with the ſyrup of poppies, may be uſed. Should theſe not have the deſired effect, bleeding and emollient fomentations will be neceſſary.

When the complaint is evidently owing to an inflammation about the neck of the bladder, bleeding muſt be more liberally performed, and repeated according to the urgency of the ſymptoms. After bleeding, if the ſtrangury ſtill continues, ſoft clyſters may be adminiſtered, and emollient fomentations applied to the region of the bladder. At the ſame time, the patient may take every four hours a tea-cupful of barley-water, to an Engliſh pint of which, ſix ounces of the ſyrup of marſh-mallows, four ounces of the oil of ſweet almonds, and half an ounce of nitre, may be added. If theſe remedies ſhould not relieve the complaint, and a total ſuppreſſion of urine ſhould come on, bleeding muſt be repeated, and the patient ſet in a warm bath up to the middle. It will be proper, in this caſe, to diſcontinue the diuretics.

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Sometimes it is neceſſary in this caſe to draw off the water with a catheter; but, as the patient is ſeldom able to bear its being introduced, we would rather recommend the uſe of bougies. Theſe ſoften and lubricate the paſſage, and greatly facilitate the diſcharge of urine. Whenever they begin to ſtimulate or give any uneaſineſs, they may be withdrawn.

The *phymoſis* is ſuch a conſtriction of the prepuce over the glans, as hinders it from being drawn backwards; the *paraphymoſis*, on the contrary, is ſuch a conſtriction of the prepuce behind the glands, as hinders it from being brought forward.

The treatment of theſe ſymptoms is ſo nearly the ſame with that of the virulent gonorrhœa, that we have no occaſion to enlarge upon it. In general, bleeding, purging, poultices, and emollient fomentations are ſufficient. Should theſe, however, fail of removing the ſtricture, and the parts be threatened with a mortification, twenty or thirty grains of ipecacoanha, and one grain of emetic tartar, may be given for a vomit, and may be worked off with warm water or thin gruel.

It ſometimes, however, happens, that in ſpite of all endeavours to the contrary, the inflammation goes on, and ſymptoms of a beginning mortification appear. When this is the caſe, the prepuce muſt be ſcarified with a lancet, and, if neceſſary, divided, in order to prevent a ſtrangulation, and ſet the impriſoned glands at liberty. We

ſhall not deſcribe the manner of performing this operation, as it ought always to be done by a ſurgeon. When a mortification has actually taken place, it will be neceſſary, beſides performing the above operations, to foment the parts frequently with clothes wrung out of a ſtrong decoction of camomile flowers and bark, and to give the patient a dram of the bark in powder every two or three hours.

With regard to the *priapiſm*, *chordee*, and other diſtortions of the penis, their treatment is noway different from that of the gonorrhœa. When they happen to prove very troubleſome, the patient may take a few drops of laudanum at night, eſpecially after the operation of a purgative through the day.

OF A CONFIRMED LUES OR POX.

We have hitherto treated of thoſe diſorders in which the venereal poiſon is ſuppoſed to be confined to the particular part by which it was received, and ſhall next take a view of the lues in its confirmed ſtate, that is, when the poiſon is actually received into the blood, and, circulating with it through every part of the body, mixes with the ſeveral ſecretions, and renders the whole habit tainted.

The ſymptoms of a confirmed lues are, buboes in the groin, pains of the head and joints, which are peculiarly troubleſome in the night, or when the patient

patient is warm in bed; ſcabs and ſcurf in various parts of the body, of a yellowiſh colour, reſembling honey-comb; corroding ulcers in various parts of the body, which generally begin about the throat, from whence they creep gradually, by the palate, towards the cartilage of the noſe, which they deſtroy; excreſcences or exoſtoſes ariſe in the middle of the bones, and their ſpongy ends become brittle, and break upon the leaſt accident; at other times they are ſoft, and bend like wax; the conglobate glands become hard and callous, and form, in the neck, arm-pits, groin, and meſentery, hard movable tumours, like the king's evil; tumours of different kinds are likewiſe formed in the lymphatic veſſels, tendons, ligaments, and nerves, as the *gumata*, *nodes*, *tophs*, &c.; the eyes are affected with itching, pain, redneſs, and ſometimes with total blindneſs, and the ears with a ſinging noiſe, pain, and deafneſs, whilſt their internal ſubſtance is exulcerated and rendered carious; at length all the animal, vital, and natural functions are depraved; the face becomes pale and livid; the body emaciated and unfit for motion, and the miſerable patient falls into an atrophy or waſting conſumption.

Women have ſymptoms peculiar to the ſex; as cancers of the breaſt; a ſuppreſſion or overflow of the menſes; the whites; the hyſteric paſſion; an inflammation, abſceſs, ſcirrhus, gangrene, cancer, or ulcer of the womb; they are generally either barren or ſubject to abortion; or, if they bring

bring children into the world, they have an univerſal eryſipelas, are half rotten, and covered with ulcers.

Such is the catalogue of ſymptoms attending this dreadful diſeaſe in its confirmed ſtate. Indeed they are ſeldom all to be met with in the ſame perſon, or at the ſame time; ſo many of them, however, are generally preſent as are ſufficient to alarm the patient; and if he has reaſon to ſuſpect the infection is lurking in his body, he ought immediately to ſet about the expulſion of it, otherwiſe the moſt tragical conſequences will enſue.

The only certain remedy hitherto known in Europe, for the cure of this diſeaſe, is mercury, which may be uſed in a great variety of forms, with nearly the ſame ſucceſs. Some time ago it was reckoned impoſſible to cure a confirmed lues without a ſalivation; this method is now, however, pretty generally laid aſide, and mercury is found to be as efficacious, or rather more ſo, in expelling the venereal poiſon, when adminiſtered in ſuch a manner as not to run off by the ſalivary glands.

Various preparations of mercury have been extolled at different times, by different authors, for the cure of the venereal diſeaſe; but after all it has been found, that the moſt ſimple forms in which it can be introduced into the ſyſtem, generally ſucceed as well as the moſt elaborate chemical preparations. Thus, an ointment or pill prepared by triturating common quickſilver with greaſe,

greaſe, reſin, or mucilage, will, if uſed for a ſufficient length of time, remove the moſt obſtinate venereal ſymptoms, unleſs where the conſtitution is ſo far deſtroyed as to render a cure impoſſible.

These may be uſed in the ſame manner as for the virulent gonorrhœa; and if any ſymptoms of a ſalivation ſhould appear, they muſt be diſcontinued for ſome days, and a purge or two taken. It is impoſſible to aſcertain either the exact quantity of theſe medicines that muſt be taken, or the time they ought to be continued in order to perform a cure. Theſe will ever vary according to the conſtitution of the patient, the ſeaſon of the year, the degree of infection, the time it has lodged in the body, *&c.* But though it is difficult, as Aſtruc obſerves, to determine, *à priori*, what quantity of mercury will, in the whole, be neceſſary to cure this diſtemper completely; yet it may be judged of *à poſteriori*, from the abatement and ceaſing of the ſymptoms. The ſame author adds, That commonly not leſs than two ounces of the ſtrong mercurial ointment is ſufficient, and not more than three or four ounces neceſſary.

The only chemical preparation of mercury which we ſhall take notice of, is the corroſive ſublimate. This was brought into uſe for the venereal diſeaſe, in Germany, by the illuſtrious Baron Van Swieten; and was ſoon after introduced into Britain by the learned Sir John Pringle, at that time phyſician to the army. The method

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of giving it is as follows: One grain of corrosive sublimate is dissolved in two ounces of French brandy or malt spirits; and of this solution, an ordinary table spoonful, or the quantity of half an ounce, is to be taken twice a-day, and to be continued as long as any symptoms of the disorder remain. The sublimate may likewise be given in form of pills or drops; but I never found it answer so well in any form as that of the solution.

Several roots, woods, and barks, have been recommended for curing the venereal disease; but none of them have been found, upon experience, to answer the high encomiums which had been passed upon them. Though no one of these is to be depended upon alone, yet when joined with mercury, some of them are found to be very beneficial in promoting a cure. One of the best we yet know is sarsaparilla. Three ounces of the dried root sliced, may be boiled in two English quarts of water to one, adding towards the end a little liquorice-root, to take off the disagreeable taste. This quantity may be divided into three or four doses, and taken in the space of twenty-four hours. As this decoction not only promotes the cure of the venereal disease, but strengthens the stomach, and acts as a restorative, it cannot fail to be of singular service where the patient is greatly weakened or exhausted by the disease.

The mezereon-root is likewise found to be a powerful assistant to the sublimate, or any other mercurial. It may either be used along with the

ſarſaparilla, or by itſelf. When they are uſed together, an ounce of the freſh bark of the mezereon-root may be mixed with eight ounces of ſarſaparilla, and a little liquorice added to them, as above. Thoſe who chuſe to uſe the mezereon by itſelf, may boil an ounce of the freſh bark, taken from the root, in twelve Engliſh pints of water to eight, adding towards the end an ounce of liquorice. The doſe of this is the ſame as of the decoction of ſarſaparilla.

We have been told that the natives of America cure the venereal diſeaſe in every ſtage by a decoction of the root of a plant called the Lobelia. It is uſed either freſh or dried; but we have no certain accounts with regard to the proportion. Sometimes they mix other roots with it, as thoſe of the ranunculus, the ceanothus, *&c.*; but whether theſe are deſigned to diſguiſe or aſſiſt it, is doubtful. The patient takes a large draught of the decoction early in the morning, and continues to uſe it for his ordinary drink through the day *.

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* Though we are ſtill very much in the dark with regard to the method of curing this diſeaſe among the natives of America, yet nothing is more certain than that they do cure it with ſpeed, ſafety, and ſucceſs, and that without the leaſt knowledge of mercury. Hence it becomes an object of the greateſt importance to diſcover their method of cure. This might ſurely be done by making trials of the various plants which are found in thoſe parts, and particularly of ſuch as the natives are known to make uſe of. All ſavage nations take their medicine chiefly from the vegetable kingdom, and are often

MANY other roots and woods might be mentioned which have been extolled for curing the venereal diſeaſe, as the china-root, the roots of ſoap-wort, burdock, &c.; as alſo the wood of guaiacum and ſaſſafras; but as none of theſe have been found to poſſeſs virtues ſuperior to thoſe already mentioned, we ſhall, for the ſake of brevity, paſs them over, and ſhall conclude our obſervations on the diſeaſe with a few general remarks concerning the proper management of the patient, and the nature of the infection.

THE condition of the patient ought always to be conſidered previous to his entering upon a courſe of mercury in any form. It would be equally raſh and dangerous to adminiſter mercury to a perſon labouring under any violent acute diſeaſe; as a putrid fever, pleuriſy, peripneumony, or the like. It would likewiſe be dangerous in ſome chronic diſeaſes; as a dropſy, a ſcirrhus, a ſlow hectic fever, or the laſt ſtage of a conſumption. Sometimes, however, the two laſt-named diſeaſes proceed from a confirmed lues; in which caſe it will be neceſſary to give mercury. In chro-

often poſſeſſed of valuable ſecrets with regard to the virtues of plants, of which more enlightened nations are ignorant. Indeed we make no doubt but ſome plants of our own growth, were proper pains taken to diſcover them, would be found as efficacious in curing the venereal diſeaſe as thoſe of America; but while phyſicians are implicitly led by great names, and other people dare not make experiments, theſe are likely to remain in the dark.

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nic diſeaſes of a leſs dangerous nature, as the aſthma, gravel, nervous complaints, and ſuch like, mercury, if neceſſary, may be ſafely adminiſtered. If the patient's ſtrength has been greatly exhauſted by ſickneſs, labour, abſtinence, or any other cauſe, the uſe of mercury muſt be poſtponed, till by time, reſt, and a proper nouriſhing diet, it can be ſufficiently reſtored.

Mercury ought not to be adminiſtered to women during the menſtrual flux, or when the period is near at hand. Neither ſhould it be given in the laſt ſtage of pregnancy. If, however, the woman be not near the time of her delivery, and circumſtances render it neceſſary, mercury may be given, but in ſmaller doſes, and at greater intervals than uſual: with theſe precautions, both the mother and child may be cured at the ſame time; if not, the diſorder will at leaſt be kept from growing worſe, till the woman be brought to bed and ſufficiently recovered, when a more effectual method may be purſued, which, if ſhe ſuckles her child, will in all probability be ſufficient for the cure of both.

Mercury ought always to be adminiſtered to infants with the greateſt caution. Their tender condition unfits them for ſupporting a ſalivation, and makes it neceſſary to adminiſter even the mildeſt preparations of mercury to them with a ſparing hand. A ſimilar conduct is recommended in the treatment of old perſons, who have the misfortune to labour under a confirmed lues. No doubt the

the infirmities of age muſt render people leſs able to undergo the fatigues of a ſalivation; but this, as was formerly obſerved, is ſeldom neceſſary; beſides, we have generally found, that mercury had much leſs effect upon very old perſons than on thoſe who were younger.

Hysteric and hypochondriac perſons, and ſuch as are ſubject to an habitual diarrhœa or dyſentery, or to frequent and violent attacks of the epilepſy, or who are afflicted with the ſcrophula, or the ſcurvy, ought to be cautious in the uſe of mercury. Where any one of theſe diſorders prevails, it ought either, if poſſible, to be cured, or at leaſt palliated, before the patient enters upon a courſe of mercury. When this cannot be done, the mercury muſt be adminiſtered in ſmaller doſes, and at longer intervals than uſual.

The moſt proper ſeaſons for entering upon a courſe of mercury, are the ſpring and autumn, when the air is of a moderate warmth; if the circumſtances of the caſe, however, will not admit of delay, we muſt not defer the cure on account of the ſeaſon, but muſt adminiſter the mercury; taking care, at the ſame time, to keep the patient's chamber warmer or cooler, according as the ſeaſon of the year requires.

The next thing to be conſidered is the preparation neceſſary to be obſerved before we proceed to adminiſter a courſe of mercury. Some lay great ſtreſs upon this circumſtance, obſerving, that by previouſly relaxing the veſſels, and correcting

recting any diſorder which may happen to prevail in the blood, not only the mercury will be diſpoſed to act more kindly, but many other inconveniencies will be prevented.

We have already recommended bleeding and gentle purges, previous to the adminiſtration of mercury, and ſhall only now add, that theſe are always to be repeated according to the age, ſtrength, conſtitution, and other circumſtances of the patient. Afterwards, if it can be conveniently done, the patient ought to bathe once or twice a-day, for a few days, in lukewarm water. His diet in the mean time muſt be light, moiſt, and cooling. Wine, and all heating liquors, alſo violent bodily exerciſe, and all great exertions of the mind, are carefully to be avoided.

A proper regimen is likewiſe to be obſerved by ſuch as are under a courſe of mercury. Inattention to this not only endangers the patient's life, but often alſo diſappoints him of a cure. A far leſs quantity of mercury will be ſufficient for the cure of a perſon who lives low, keeps warm, and avoids all manner of exceſs, than of one who cannot endure to put the ſmalleſt reſtraint upon his appetites: indeed it but rarely happens that ſuch ever are thoroughly cured.

There is hardly any thing of more importance in the cure of the venereal diſeaſe than cleanlineſs. By an early attention to it, the infection might often be prevented from entering the body; and, where it has already taken place, its effects may

be greatly mitigated. The moment any perſon has reaſon to ſuſpect that he has received the infection, he ought to waſh the parts with water and ſpirits, ſweet oil, or milk and water; a ſmall quantity of the laſt may likewiſe be injected up the urethra, if it can be conveniently done. Whether this diſeaſe took its riſe at firſt from dirtineſs, we ſhall not pretend to ſay; but wherever that prevails, the infection will be found in its greateſt degree of virulence *.

When the venereal diſeaſe has been neglected, or improperly treated, it often becomes a diſorder of the conſtitution. In this caſe the cure muſt be attempted by reſtoratives, as a milk-diet,

* I have not only often ſeen a recent infection carried off in a few days by means of cleanlineſs, *viz.* bathing, fomentations, injections, *&c.*; but have likewiſe found it of the greateſt advantage in the more advanced ſtages of the diſeaſe. Of this I had lately a very remarkable inſtance, in a man whoſe penis was almoſt wholly conſumed by venereal ulcers; the matter had been allowed to continue on the fores, without any care having been taken to clean them, till, notwithſtanding the uſe of mercury and other medicines, it had produced the effects above-mentioned. I ordered warm milk and water to be injected three or four times a-day into all the ſinuous ulcers, in order to waſh out the matter; after which they were ſtuffed with dry lint, to abſorb the freſh matter as it was generated. The patient at the ſame time took every day half a grain of the corroſive ſublimate of mercury, diſſolved in an ounce of brandy, and drank an Engliſh quart of the decoction of ſarſaparilla. By this treatment, in about ſix weeks, he was perfectly cured; and, what was very remarkable, a part of the penis was actually regenerated.

the decoction of ſarſaparilla, and ſuch like, to which mercury may be occaſionally added. It is a common practice in North Britain to ſend ſuch patients to drink goat-whey. This is a very proper plan, provided the infection has been totally eradicated before-hand; but when that is not the caſe, and the patient truſts to the whey for finiſhing his cure, he will often be diſappointed. I have frequently known the diſeaſe return with all its virulence after a courſe of goat-whey, even when that courſe had been thought quite ſufficient for completing the cure.

One of the moſt unfortunate circumſtances attending patients in this diſeaſe, is the neceſſity they are often laid under of being ſoon well. This induces them to take medicine too faſt, and to leave it off too ſoon. A few grains more of medicine, or a few days longer confinement, would often be ſufficient to perfect the cure; whereas by the neglect of theſe, a ſmall degree of virulence is ſtill left in the humours, which gradually vitiates, and at length contaminates the whole maſs. To avoid this, we would adviſe that the patient ſhould never leave off taking medicine immediately upon the diſappearing of the ſymptoms, but continue it for ſome time after, gradually leſſening the quantity, till there is ſufficient ground to believe that the diſeaſe is entirely eradicated.

It is not only difficult, but abſolutely impoſſible, to aſcertain the exact degree of virulence

that may attend the diſeaſe; for which reaſon it will always be a much ſafer rule to continue the uſe of medicine too long, than to leave it off too ſoon. This ſeems to be the leading maxim of a modern practitioner of ſome note for the venereal diſeaſe, who always orders his patient to perform a quarantine of forty days, during which time he takes forty bottles of, I ſuppoſe, a ſtrong decoction of ſarſaparilla, or ſome other anti-venereal ſimple. Whoever takes this method, and adds a ſufficient quantity of ſome active preparation of mercury to the decoction, will ſeldom fail to cure a confirmed lues.

It is peculiarly unfortunate for the cure of this diſeaſe, that not one in ten of thoſe who contract it are either able or willing to ſubmit to a proper plan of regimen. The patient is willing to take medicine; but he muſt follow his buſineſs, and, to prevent ſuſpicions, muſt eat and drink like the reſt of the family. This is the true ſource of nine tenths of all the miſchief ariſing from the venereal diſeaſe. I never knew the cure attended with any great difficulty or danger where the patient ſtrictly followed the phyſician's advice; but a volume would not be ſufficient to point out the dreadful conſequences which proceed from an oppoſite conduct. Scirrhous teſticles, ulcerous ſore throats, carious bones, and a rotten progeny, are a few of the bleſſings derived from this ſource.

THERE is a ſpecies of falſe reaſoning, with regard to this diſeaſe, which proves fatal to many. A perſon of a ſound conſtitution contracts a ſlight degree of the diſorder. He gets well without taking any great care, or uſing much medicine, and hence concludes, that this will always be the caſe. The next time the diſeaſe occurs, though ten times more virulent, it is treated in the ſame manner, and the conſtitution is ruined. Indeed the different degrees of virulence in the ſmall-pox are not greater than in this diſeaſe, though, as the learned Sydenham obſerves, in ſome caſes the moſt ſkilful phyſician cannot cure, and in others the moſt ignorant old woman cannot kill the patient in that diſorder. Though a good conſtitution is always in favour of the patient, yet too great ſtreſs may be laid upon it in this diſeaſe. It does not appear from obſervation, that the moſt robuſt conſtitution is able to overcome the virulence of the venereal contagion, after it has got into the habit. In this caſe a proper courſe of medicine is always indiſpenſibly neceſſary.

ALTHOUGH it is impoſſible, on account of the different degrees of virulence, *&c.* to lay down fixed and certain rules for the cure of this diſeaſe, yet the following general plan will always be found ſafe, and often ſucceſsful, *viz.* to bleed and adminiſter gentle purges during the inflammatory ſtate, and as ſoon as the ſymptoms of inflammation are abated, to adminiſter mercury,

in any form that may be moſt agreeable to the patient. The ſame medicine, aſſiſted by the decoction of ſarſaparilla and a proper regimen, will not only ſecure the conſtitution againſt the further progreſs of a confirmed pox, but will generally perform a complete cure.

CHAP

CHAP. XLVIII.

DISEASES OF WOMEN.

WOMEN, in all civilized nations, have the management of domeſtic affairs; and it is very proper they ſhould, as nature has made them leſs fit for the more active and laborious employments. This indulgence, however, is generally carried too far; and females, inſtead of being benefited by it, are greatly injured, from the want of exerciſe and free air. To be ſatisfied of this, one need only compare the freſh and ruddy looks of a milk-maid with the pale complexion of thoſe females whoſe whole buſineſs lies within doors. Though Nature has made an evident diſtinction between the male and female with regard to bodily ſtrength and vigour, yet ſhe certainly never meant, either that the one ſhould be always without, or the other always within doors.

THE confinement of females, beſides hurting their figure and complexion, relaxes their ſolids, weakens their minds, and diſorders all the functions of the body. Hence proceed obſtructions, indigeſtion, flatulence, abortions, and the whole train of nervous diſorders. Theſe not only unfit women for being mothers and nurſes, but often render them whimſical and ridiculous. A ſound mind depends ſo much upon a healthy body, that

where the latter is wanting, the former is rarely to be found.

I HAVE always obſerved, that women who were chiefly employed without doors, in the different branches of huſbandry, gardening, and the like, were almoſt as hardy as their huſbands, and that their children were likewiſe ſtrong and healthy. But as the bad effects of confinement and inactivity upon both ſexes have been already ſhown, we ſhall proceed to point out theſe circumſtances in the ſtructure and deſign of females, which ſubject them to peculiar diſeaſes; the chief of which are, their *monthly evacuations*, *pregnancy*, and *child-bearing*. Theſe indeed cannot properly be called diſeaſes themſelves, but from the delicacy of the ſex, and their being often improperly managed in ſuch ſituations, they become the ſource of numerous calamities.

OF THE MENSTRUAL DISCHARGE.

FEMALES generally begin to menſtruate about the age of fifteen, and leave it off about fifty, which renders theſe two periods the moſt critical of their lives. About the firſt appearance of this diſcharge, the conſtitution undergoes a very conſiderable change, generally indeed for the better, though ſometimes for the worſe. The greateſt care is now neceſſary, as the future health and happineſs of the female depends, in a great meaſure, upon her conduct at this period.

If a girl about this time of life be confined to the houſe, kept conſtantly ſitting, and neither allowed to romp about, nor employed in any active buſineſs, which gives exerciſe to the whole body, ſhe becomes weak, relaxed, and puny; her blood not being duly prepared, ſhe looks pale and wan; her health, ſpirits, and vigour decline, and ſhe ſinks into a valetudinary for life. Such is the fate of numbers of thoſe unhappy females, who, either from too much indulgence, or their own narrow circumſtances, are, at this critical period of life, denied the benefit of exerciſe and free air.

A lazy indolent diſpoſition proves likewiſe very hurtful to girls at this period. One ſeldom meets with complaints from obſtructions amongſt the more active and induſtrious part of the ſex; whereas the indolent and lazy are ſeldom free from them. Theſe are, in a manner, eat up by the *chloroſis*, or greenſickneſs, and other diſeaſes of this nature. We would therefore recommend it to all who wiſh to eſcape theſe calamities, to avoid indolence and inactivity, as their greateſt enemies, and to be as much abroad in the open air as poſſible.

Another thing that proves very hurtful to girls about this period of life, is unwholeſome food. Fond of all manner of traſh, they often indulge in it, till their whole humours are quite vitiated. Hence enſue indigeſtions, want of appetite, and a numerous train of evils. If the fluids be not duly prepared, it is utterly impoſſible that the ſecretions

cretions ſhould be properly performed: Accordingly we find, that ſuch girls as lead an indolent life, and eat great quantities of traſh, are not only ſubject to obſtructions of the *menſes*, but likewiſe to glandular obſtructions; as the ſcrophula or king's evil, *&c.*

A DULL diſpoſition is likewiſe very hurtful to girls at this period. It is a rare thing to ſee a ſprightly girl who does not enjoy good health, while the grave, moping, melancholy creature proves the very prey of vapours and hyſterics. Youth is the ſeaſon for mirth and cheerfulneſs. Let it therefore be indulged. It is an abſolute duty. To lay in a ſtock of health in time of youth, is as neceſſary a piece of prudence as to make proviſion againſt the decays of old age. While therefore wiſe Nature prompts the happy youth to join in ſprightly amuſements, let not the ſevere dictates of hoary age forbid the uſeful impulſe, nor damp with ſerious gloom the ſeaſon deſtined to mirth and innocent feſtivity.

ANOTHER thing very hurtful to females about this period of life is ſtrait clothes. They are fond of a fine ſhape, and fooliſhly imagine, that this can be acquired by lacing themſelves tight. Hence, by ſqueezing the ſtomach and bowels, they hurt the digeſtion, and occaſion many incurable maladies. This error is not indeed ſo common as it has been; but, as faſhions change, it may come about again: we therefore think it not improper to mention it. I know many females who,

who, to this day, feel the direful effects of that wretched cuſtom which prevailed ſome time ago, of ſqueezing every girl into as ſmall a ſize in the middle as poſſible. Human invention could not poſſibly have deviſed a practice more deſtructive to health.

After a female has arrived at that period of life when the *menſes* uſually begin to flow, and they do not appear, but, on the contrary, her health and ſpirits begin to decline, we would adviſe, inſtead of ſhutting the poor girl up in the houſe, and doſing her with ſteel, aſſafœtida, and other nauſeous drugs, to place her in a ſituation where ſhe can enjoy the benefit of free air and agreeable company. There let her eat wholeſome food, take ſufficient exerciſe, and amuſe herſelf in the moſt agreeable manner; and we have little reaſon to fear, but Nature, thus aſſiſted, will do her proper work. Indeed ſhe ſeldom fails, unleſs where the fault is on our ſide.

When the *menſes* have once begun to flow, the greateſt care ſhould be taken to avoid every thing that may tend to obſtruct them. Females ought to be exceeding cautious of what they eat or drink at the time they are out of order. Every thing that is cold, or apt to ſour on the ſtomach, ought to be avoided; as fruit, butter-milk, and ſuch like. Fiſh, and all kinds of food that are hard of digeſtion, are alſo to be avoided. As it is impoſſible to mention every thing that may diſagree with individuals at this time, we would recommend it to every female to be very attentive to

what

what diſagrees with herſelf, and carefully to avoid it.

COLD is extremely hurtful to females at this particular period. More of the ſex date their diſorders from colds, caught while they were out of order, than from all other cauſes. This ought ſurely to put them upon their guard, and to make them very circumſpect in their conduct at ſuch times. A degree of cold that will not in the leaſt hurt them at another time, will, at this period, be ſufficient entirely to ruin their health and conſtitution.

THE greateſt attention ought likewiſe to be paid to the mind, which ſhould be kept as eaſy and cheerful as poſſible. Every part of the animal œconomy is influenced by the paſſions, but none more ſo than this. Anger, fear, grief, and other affections of the mind, often occaſion obſtructions of the menſtrual flux, which prove abſolutely incurable.

FROM whatever cauſe this flux is obſtructed, except in the ſtate of pregnancy, proper means ſhould be uſed to reſtore it. For this purpoſe we would recommend ſufficient exerciſe, in a dry, open, and rather cool air; wholeſome diet, and, if the body be weak and languid, generous liquors; alſo cheerful company, and all manner of amuſements. If theſe fail, the following medicines may be tried.

WHEN the obſtructions proceed from a weak relaxed ſtate of the ſolids, ſuch medicines as tend

to

to promote digeſtion, to brace the ſolids, and aſſiſt the body in preparing good blood, ought to be uſed. The principal of theſe are iron, the Peruvian bark, with other bitter and aſtringent medicines. Filings of iron may be infuſed in wine or ale, two ounces to an Engliſh quart, and after it has ſtood in a warm place twenty-four hours, it may be ſtrained, and a ſmall cupful drank three or four times a-day; or they may be reduced to a fine powder, and taken in a doſe of half a dram, mixed with a little honey or treacle, three or four times a-day. The bark and other bitters may either be taken in ſubſtance or infuſion, as is moſt agreeable to the patient.

When obſtructions proceed from a viſcid ſtate of the blood, and the patient is of a groſs or full habit, evacuations, and ſuch medicines as attenuate the humours, are neceſſary. The woman in this caſe ought to be bled, to bathe her feet frequently in warm water, to take frequently a cooling purge, and to live upon a ſpare thin diet. Her drink ſhould be whey, water, or ſmall beer, and ſhe ought to take ſufficient exerciſe.

When obſtructions proceed from affections of the mind, as grief, fear, anger, *&c.* every method ſhould be taken to amuſe and divert the patient. And that ſhe may the more readily forget the cauſe of her affliction, ſhe ought, if poſſible, to be removed from the place where it happened. A change of place, by preſenting the

the mind with a variety of new objects, has often a very happy influence in relieving it from the deepeſt diſtreſs. A ſoothing, kind, and affable behaviour to females in this ſituation is alſo of the laſt importance.

An obſtruction of the *menſes* is often the effect of other maladies. When this is the caſe, inſtead of giving medicines to force down that diſcharge, which might be dangerous, we ought, by all means, to endeavour to reſtore the patient's health and ſtrength. When that is effected, the other will return of courſe.

But the menſtrual flux may be too great as well as too ſmall. When this happens, the patient becomes weak, the colour pale, the appetite and digeſtion are bad, and œdematous ſwellings of the feet, dropſies and conſumptions often enſue. This frequently happens to women about the age of forty-five or fifty, and is very difficult to cure. It may proceed from a ſedentary life; a full diet, conſiſting chiefly of ſalted, high-ſeaſoned, or acrid food; the uſe of ſpirituous liquors; exceſſive fatigue; violent paſſions of the mind, *&c.*

To reſtrain this flux, the patient ſhould be kept quiet and eaſy both in body and mind. If it be very violent, ſhe ought to lie in bed with her head low; to live upon a cool and ſlender diet, as veal or chicken broths with bread; and to drink decoctions of nettle-roots, or the greater comfrey. If theſe be not ſufficient to ſtop the flux, ſtronger aſtringents

aſtringents may be uſed, as allum, the Peruvian bark, &c.*

But the *uterine flux* may offend in quality as well as in quantity. What is uſually called the *fluor albus*, or whites, is a very common diſeaſe, and proves extremely hurtful to delicate women. This diſcharge, however, is not always white, but ſometimes pale, yellow, green, or of a blackiſh colour; ſometimes it is ſharp and corroſive, ſometimes foul and fœtid, &c. It is attended with a pale complexion, pain in the ſpine of the back, loſs of appetite, ſwelling of the feet, &c. It generally proceeds from a relaxed and debilitated ſtate of the body, ariſing from indolence, the exceſſive uſe of tea, coffee, or other weak and watery diet.

To remove this diſeaſe, the patient muſt take as much exerciſe as ſhe can bear without fatigue. Her food muſt be ſolid and nouriſhing, but of eaſy digeſtion; and her drink pretty generous, as red port or claret. Theſe may be drank pure, or mixed with water, as the patient inclines. Tea and coffee are to be avoided. I have often known

* Two drams of allum and one of Japan earth may be pounded together, and divided into eight or nine doſes, one of which may be taken three times a-day. Perſons whoſe ſtomachs cannot bear the allum, may take two table-ſpoonfuls of the tincture of roſes three or four times a-day, to each doſe of which, ten drops of laudanum may be added.

If theſe ſhould fail, half a dram of the Peruvian bark, in powder, with ten drops of the elixir of vitriol, may be taken, in a glaſs of red wine, four times a-day.

ſtrong

ſtrong broths have an exceeding good effect in this caſe. The patient ought not to lie too long a-bed. When medicine is neceſſary, we know none preferable to the Peruvian bark, which, in this caſe, ought always to be taken in ſubſtance. In warm weather, the cold bath will be of conſiderable ſervice.

That period of life at which the *menſes* ceaſe to flow, is likewiſe very critical to the ſex. The ſtoppage of any cuſtomary evacuation, however ſmall, is ſufficient to diſorder the whole frame, and often to deſtroy life itſelf. Hence it comes to paſs, that ſo many women either fall into chronic diſorders, or die about this time: Such of them however as ſurvive it, without contracting any chronic diſeaſe, often become more healthy and hardy than they were before, and enjoy ſtrength and vigour to a very great age.

If the *menſes* ceaſe all of a ſudden, in women of a full habit, they ought to abate ſomewhat of their uſual quantity of food, eſpecially of the more nouriſhing kind, as fleſh, eggs, *&c.* They ought likewiſe to take ſufficient exerciſe, and to keep the body open. This may be done by taking, once or twice a-week, a little rhubarb, or an infuſion of hiera picra in wine or brandy.

It often happens that women of a groſs habit, at this period of life, have ulcerous ſores break out about their ancles, or in other parts of the body. Such ulcers ought to be conſidered as critical, and ſhould either be ſuffered to continue

open, or artificial drains ſhould be ſubſtituted in their ſtead. Women who will needs have ſuch ſores dried up, are often ſoon after ſeized with acute or chronic diſeaſes, of which they die.

OF PREGNANCY.

Pregnant women are often afflicted with the heart-burn. The method of treating this complaint has already been pointed out. They are likewiſe, in the more early periods of pregnancy, often haraſſed with ſickneſs and vomiting, eſpecially in the morning. The method of relieving theſe complaints has alſo been already ſhewn. Both the head-ach and tooth-ach are very troubleſome ſymptoms of pregnancy. The former may generally be removed by keeping the body gently open, by the uſe of prunes, figs, roaſted apples, and ſuch like. When the pain is very violent, bleeding may be neceſſary. For the treatment of the latter, we muſt refer the reader to that article. Several other complaints incident to pregnant women might be mentioned, as a cough and difficulty of breathing, ſuppreſſion and incontinency of urine, *&c.*; but as all of theſe have been taken notice of before, we ſhall not repeat them.

Every pregnant woman is more or leſs in danger of abortion. This ſhould be guarded againſt with the greateſt care, as it not only weakens the conſtitution, but renders the woman liable to the ſame misfortune afterwards. Abortion may hap-

pen at any period of pregnancy, but it is moſt common in the ſecond or third month. Sometimes, however, it happens in the fourth or fifth. If it happens within the firſt month, it is uſually called a falſe conception; if after the ſeventh month, the child may often be kept alive by proper care.

The common cauſes of abortion are, the death of the child; weakneſs or relaxation of the mother; great evacuations; violent exerciſe; raiſing great weights; reaching too high; vomiting; coughing; convulſion-fits; ſtrokes on the belly; falls; fevers; diſagreeable ſmells; exceſs of blood; indolence; high living; or the contrary; violent paſſions or affections of the mind, as fear, grief, &c.

The ſigns of approaching abortion are, pain in the loins, or about the bottom of the belly; a dull heavy pain in the inſide of the thighs; a ſlight degree of coldneſs or ſhivering; ſickneſs; palpitation of the heart; the breaſts become flat and ſoft; the belly falls; and there is a diſcharge of blood or watery humours from the womb.

To prevent abortion, we would adviſe women of a weak or relaxed habit to uſe ſolid food, avoiding great quantities of tea, and other weak and watery liquors; to riſe early, and go ſoon to bed; to ſhun damp houſes; to take frequent exerciſe in the open air, but to avoid fatigue; and never to go abroad in damp foggy weather, if they can ſhun it.

WOMEN of a full habit ought to uſe a ſpare diet, avoiding ſtrong liquors, and every thing that may tend to heat the body, or increaſe the quantity of blood. Their diet ſhould be of an opening nature, conſiſting principally of vegetable ſubſtances. Every woman with child ought to be kept cheerful and eaſy in her mind. All violent paſſions endanger the life of the *fœtus*, and may cauſe an abortion.

WHEN any ſigns of abortion appear, the woman ought to be laid in bed on a mattreſs, with her head low. She ſhould be kept quiet, and her mind ſoothed and comforted. She ought not to be too warm, nor to take any thing of a heating nature. Her food ſhould conſiſt of broths, rice and milk, jellies, gruels made of oat-meal, and the like.

IF ſhe be able to bear it, ſhe ſhould loſe, at leaſt, half a pound of blood from the arm. Her drink ought to be barley-water ſharpened with juice of lemon; or ſhe may take half a dram of powdered nitre, in a cup of water-gruel, every five or ſix hours. If the woman be ſeized with a violent looſeneſs, ſhe ought to drink the decoction of calcined hartſhorn prepared. If ſhe be affected with vomiting, let her take frequently two tableſpoonfuls of the ſaline mixture.

SANGUINE robuſt women, who are liable to miſcarry at a certain time of pregnancy, ought always to be bled a few days before that period arrives. By this means, and obſerving the regimen

above prescribed, they might often escape that misfortune.

THOUGH we recommend due care for preventing abortion, we would not be understood as restraining pregnant women from their usual exercises. This would operate the quite contrary way. Want of exercise not only relaxes the body, but induces a plethora, or too great a fulness of the vessels, which are the two principal causes of abortion.

OF CHILD-BIRTH.

MANY diseases proceed from the want of due care in child-bed; and the more hardy part of the sex are most apt to despise the necessary precautions in this state. This is peculiarly the case with young wives. They think, when the labour-pains are ended, the danger is over; but in truth it may only then be said to be begun. Nature, if left to herself, will seldom fail to expel the *fœtus*; but proper care and management are certainly necessary for the recovery of the mother. No doubt, mischief may be done by too much as well as by too little care. Hence females who have the greatest number of attendants in child-bed generally recover worst. But this is not peculiar to the state of child-bed. Excessive care always defeats its own intention, and is generally more dangerous than none at all.

DURING

During actual labour, nothing of a heating nature muſt be given. The woman may, now and then, take a little panado, and her drink ought to be toaſt and water, or thin groat-gruel. Spirits, wines, cordial-waters, and other things which are given with a view to ſtrengthen the mother, and promote the birth, for the moſt part tend only to increaſe the fever, inflame the womb, and retard the labour. Beſides, they endanger the woman afterwards, as they often occaſion violent and mortal hæmorrhages, or diſpoſe her to eruptive and other fevers.

When the labour proves tedious and difficult, to prevent inflammations, it will be proper to bleed. An emollient clyſter ought likewiſe frequently to be adminiſtered; and the patient ſhould ſit over the ſteams of warm water. The paſſage ought to be gently rubbed with a little ſoft *pomatum* or freſh butter, and cloths wrung out of warm water applied over the belly. If Nature ſeems to ſink, and the woman is greatly exhauſted with fatigue, a draught of generous wine, or ſome other cordial may be given, but not otherwiſe. Theſe directions are ſufficient in natural labours; and in all preternatural caſes, a ſkilful ſurgeon, or man-midwife, ought to be called as ſoon as poſſible.

We cannot help taking notice of that ridiculous cuſtom which ſtill prevails in ſome parts of the country, of collecting a number of women together upon ſuch occaſions. Theſe, inſtead of being

uſeful, ſerve only to crowd the houſe, and obſtruct the neceſſary attendants. Beſides, they hurt the patient with their noiſe; and often, by their untimely and impertinent advice, do much miſchief.

After delivery, the woman ought to be kept as quiet and eaſy as poſſible. Her food ſhould be light and thin, as gruel, panado, *&c.*; and her drink weak and diluting. To this rule, however, there are ſome exceptions. I have known ſeveral hyſteric women, whoſe ſpirits could not be ſupported in child-bed without ſolid food and generous liquors; to ſuch a glaſs of wine and a bit of chicken muſt be allowed.

Sometimes an exceſſive hæmorrhage or flooding happens after delivery. In this caſe, the patient ſhould be laid with her head low, kept cool, and be in all reſpects treated as for an exceſſive flux of the *menſes*. If the flooding proves violent, linen cloths, which have been wrung out of a mixture of equal parts of vinegar and water, or red wine, ſhould be applied to the belly, the loins, and the thighs: Theſe muſt be changed as they grow dry; and may be diſcontinued as ſoon as the flooding abates *.

* In a violent flooding after delivery, I have ſeen very good effects from the following mixture. Take of penny-royal water, ſimple cinnamon water, and ſyrup of poppies, each two ounces, acid elixir of vitriol a dram. Mix, and take two table-ſpoonfuls every two hours, or oftener if neceſſary.

If there be violent pains after delivery, the patient ought to drink plentifully of warm diluting liquors, as tea with a little saffron; or an infusion of camomile flowers; and to take small broths, with carroway seeds, or a bit of orange-peel in them; an ounce of the oil of sweet almonds may likewise be frequently taken in a cup of any of the above liquors; and if the patient be restless, a spoonful of the syrup of poppies may now and then be mixed with a cup of her drink. If she be hot or feverish, one of the following powders may be taken in a cup of her usual drink, every five or six hours *.

An inflammation of the womb is a dangerous and not unfrequent disease after delivery. It is known by pains in the lower part of the belly, which are greatly increased upon touching; by the tension or tightness of the parts; great weakness; change of countenance; a constant fever, with a weak and hard pulse; a slight *delirium* or raving; sometimes incessant vomiting; a hiccup; a discharge of redish, stinking, sharp water from the womb; an inclination to go frequently to

* Take of crabs claws prepared half an ounce, purified nitre two drams, saffron powdered half a dram; rub them together in a mortar, and divide the whole into eight or nine doses. When the patient is low-spirited, or troubled with hysterical complaints, she ought to take frequently twelve or fifteen drops of the tincture of asafœtida in a cup of penny-royal tea.

ſtool; a heat, and ſometimes total ſuppreſſion of urine.

This muſt be treated like other inflammatory diſorders, by bleeding and plentiful dilution. The drink may be thin gruel or barley water; in a cup of which half a dram of nitre may be diſſolved, and taken three or four times a day. Clyſters of warm water muſt be frequently adminiſtered; and the belly ſhould be fomented by cloths wrung out of warm water, or by applying bladders filled with warm milk and water to it.

A suppression of the *lochia*, or uſual diſcharges after delivery, and the milk-fever, muſt be treated nearly in the ſame manner as an inflammation of the womb. In all theſe caſes, the ſafeſt courſe is plentiful dilution, gentle evacuations, and fomentations of the parts affected. In the milk-fever, the breaſts may be embrocated with a little warm linſeed oil, or the leaves of red cabbage may be applied to them. The child ſhould be often put to the breaſt, or it ſhould be drawn by ſome other perſon.

Nothing would tend more to prevent the milk-fever, than putting the child early to the breaſt. The cuſtom of not allowing children to ſuck for the firſt two or three days, is contrary to Nature and common ſenſe, and is very hurtful both to the mother and child.

Every mother who has milk in her breaſts, ought either to ſuckle her own child, or to have her

her breaſts frequently drawn, at leaſt for the firſt month. This would prevent many of the diſeaſes which prove fatal to women in child-bed.

When an inflammation happens in the breaſt, attended with redneſs, hardneſs, and other ſymptoms of ſuppuration, the ſafeſt application is a poultice of bread and milk, ſoftened with oil or freſh butter. This may be renewed twice a-day, till the tumour be either diſcuſſed or brought to ſuppuration. The uſe of repellants, in this caſe, is very dangerous; they often occaſion fevers, and ſometimes cancers: Whereas a ſuppuration is ſeldom attended with any danger, and has often the moſt ſalutary effects.

When the nipples are fretted or chapt, they may be anointed with a mixture of oil and bees-wax, or a little gum-arabic may be ſprinkled on them. I have ſeen Hungary-water applied to the nipples have a very good effect. Should the complaint prove obſtinate, a cooling purge may be given, which generally removes it.

The miliary fever is a diſeaſe very incident to women in child-bed. But as it has been treated of already, we ſhall take no further notice of it here. The celebrated Hoffman obſerves, That this fever of child-bed women might generally be prevented, if they, during their pregnancy, were regular in their diet, uſed moderate exerciſe, took now and then a gentle laxative of manna, rhubarb, or cream of tartar; not forgetting to bleed

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in the firſt months, and avoid all ſharp air. When the labour is coming on, it is not to be haſtened with forcing medicines, which inflame the blood and humours, or put them into unnatural commotions. Care ſhould be taken, after the birth, that the natural excretions proceed regularly; and if the pulſe be quick, a little nitrous powder ſhould be given, *&c.*

We ſhall conclude our obſervations on child-bed women by recommending it to them, above all things, to beware of cold. Poor women, whoſe circumſtances oblige them to quit their bed too ſoon, often contract diſeaſes from cold, of which they never recover. It is pity the poor are not better taken care of in this ſituation.

But the better ſort of women run the greateſt hazard from too much heat. They are generally kept in a ſort of bagnio for the firſt eight or ten days, and then dreſſed out to ſee company. The danger of this conduct muſt be obvious to every one.

The ſuperſtitious cuſtom of obliging women to keep the houſe till they go to church, is likewiſe a very common cauſe of catching cold. All churches are damp, and moſt of them cold; conſequently they are the very worſt places to which a woman can go to make her firſt viſit, after having been confined in a warm room for a month.

OF BARRENNESS.

Barrenness may be very properly reckoned among the diſeaſes of females, as few married women who have not children enjoy a good ſtate of health. It may proceed from various cauſes; but we ſhall only take notice of three, *viz.* high living, relaxation, and grief.

It is very certain that high living vitiates the humours, and prevents fecundity. We ſeldom find a barren woman among the labouring poor, while nothing is more common amongſt the rich and affluent. The inhabitants of every country are prolific in proportion to their poverty, and it would be an eaſy matter to adduce many inſtances of women who, by being reduced to live entirely upon a milk and vegetable diet, have conceived and brought forth children, though they never had any before. Would the rich uſe the ſame ſort of food and exerciſe as the better ſort of peaſants, they would ſeldom have cauſe to envy their poor vaſſals and dependents the bleſſing of a numerous and healthy offspring, while they pine in ſorrow for the want of even a ſingle heir to their extenſive dominions.

Affluence begets indolence, which not only vitiates the humours, but induces a general relaxation of the ſolids; a ſtate highly unfavourable to procreation. To remove this we would recommend

commend the following courſe. Firſt, ſufficient exerciſe in the open air; ſecondly, a diet conſiſting chiefly of milk and vegetables *; thirdly, the uſe of aſtringent medicines, as allum, dragon's blood, elixir of vitriol, the Peruvian bark, &c.; and laſtly, the cold bath.

WHATEVER obſtructs the menſtrual flux may be conſidered as a cauſe of barrenneſs. Hence it is often the conſequence of grief, ſudden fear, anxiety, or any of the depreſſing paſſions. When barrenneſs is ſuſpected to proceed from affections of the mind, the perſon ought to be kept as eaſy and cheerful as poſſible; all diſagreeable objects are to be avoided, and every method taken to amuſe and entertain the fancy.

* Dr. Chyne avers, that want of children is oftener the fault of the male than of the female, and ſtrongly recommends a milk and vegetable diet to the former as well as the latter; adding, that his friend Dr. Taylor, whom he calls the Milk-doctor of Croydon, had brought ſundry opulent families in his neighbourhood, who had continued ſome years after marriage without progeny, to have ſeveral fine children, by keeping both parents, for a conſiderable time, to a milk and vegetable diet.

CHAP.

CHAP. XLIX.

DISEASES OF CHILDREN.

MISERABLE indeed is the lot of man in the ſtate of infancy. He comes into the world more helpleſs than any other animal, and ſtands much longer in need of the protection and care of his parents; but, alas! this care is not always beſtowed upon him; and when it is, he often ſuffers as much from improper management as he would have done from neglect. Hence the officious care of parents, nurſes, and midwives, becomes one of the moſt fruitful ſources of the diſorders of infants *.

IT muſt be obvious to every attentive obſerver, that the firſt diſeaſes of infants ariſe chiefly from their bowels. Nor is this in the leaſt to be won-

* We ſhall only here adduce one inſtance of the officious care of midwives, viz. the common practice of torturing infants by ſqueezing their breaſts, to draw off the milk, as they call it. Though a ſmall quantity of moiſture is generally found in the breaſts of infants, yet, as they are certainly not intended to give ſuck, this ought never to be drawn off. I have ſeen this cruel operation bring on hardneſs, inflammation, and ſuppuration of the breaſts; but never knew any ill conſequences from its being omitted. When the breaſts are hard, the only application that we would recommend is a ſoft poultice, or a little of the diachylon plaſter, ſpread thin upon a bit of ſoft leather, about the ſize of half a crown, and applied over each nipple. Theſe may be ſuffered to continue till the hardneſs be gone off.

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dered at, as they are in a manner poiſoned with indigeſtable drugs and improper diet as ſoon as they come into the world. Every thing that the ſtomach cannot digeſt may be conſidered as a poiſon; and unleſs it can be thrown up, or voided by ſtool, it muſt occaſion ſickneſs, gripes, ſpaſmodic affections of the bowels, or what the good women call inward fits, and at laſt convulſions and death.

As theſe ſymptoms evidently ariſe from ſomewhat that irritates the inteſtines, doubtleſs the proper method of cure muſt be to expel it as ſoon as poſſible. The moſt ſafe and effectual method of doing this is by gentle vomits. Five or ſix grains of the powder of ipecacuanha may be mixed in two table-ſpoonfuls of water, and ſweetened with a little ſugar. A tea-ſpoonful of this may be given to the infant every quarter of an hour, till it operates; or, what will more certainly anſwer the purpoſe, a grain of emetic tartar may be diſſolved in three ounces of water ſweetened with a little ſyrup, and given as above. Thoſe who are not fond of uſing the emetic tartar, may give ſix or ſeven drops of the antimonial wine, in a tea-ſpoonful of water or thin gruel.

These medicines will not only cleanſe the ſtomach, but will, generally, likewiſe open the belly; ſhould this, however, not happen, and, if the child be coſtive, ſome gentle purge will be neceſſary: for this purpoſe ſome manna and pulp of caſſia may be diſſolved in boiling water, and

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given in ſmall quantities till it operates; or, what will anſwer rather better, a few grains of magneſia alba may be mixed in any kind of food that is given to the child, and continued till it has the deſired effect. If theſe medicines be properly adminiſtered, and the child's belly and limbs frequently rubbed with a warm hand before the fire, they will ſeldom fail to relieve thoſe affections of the ſtomach and bowels from which infants ſuffer ſo much.

THESE general directions include moſt of what can be done for relieving the internal diſorders of infants. They will likewiſe go a conſiderable length in alleviating thoſe which appear externally, as the raſh, *gum*, or *fellon*, *&c.* Theſe, as was formerly obſerved, are principally owing to too hot a regimen, and conſequently will be moſt commonly relieved by gentle evacuations. Indeed, evacuations of one kind or other, conſtitute a principal part of the medicine of infants, and will ſeldom, if adminiſtered with prudence, in any of their diſeaſes, fail to give relief.

OF THE MECONIUM.

THE ſtomach and bowels of a new-born infant are filled with a blackiſh-coloured matter, of the conſiſtence of ſyrup, commonly called the *meconium*. This is generally paſſed ſoon after the birth, by the mere effort of nature; in which caſe it

it is not neceſſary to give the infant any kind of medicine. But if it ſhould be retained, or not ſufficiently carried off, a little manna or magneſia alba may be given, as mentioned above; or, if theſe ſhould not be at hand, a common ſpoonful of whey, ſweetened with a little honey, may be given.

THE moſt proper medicine for expelling the *meconium* is the mother's milk, which is always, at firſt, of a purgative quality. Were children allowed to ſuck as ſoon as they ſhew an inclination for the breaſt, they would ſeldom have occaſion for medicines to diſcharge the meconium; but even where this is not allowed, they ought never to have daubs of ſyrup, oils, and other indigeſtible ſtuff, crammed down their throats.

THE APHTHÆ OR THRUSH.

THE aphthæ are little whitiſh ulcers affecting the whole inſide of the mouth, tongue, throat, and ſtomach of infants. Sometimes they reach through the whole inteſtinal canal; in which caſe they are very dangerous, and often put an end to the infant's life.

IF the aphthæ are of a pale colour, pellucid, few in number, ſoft, ſuperficial, and fall eaſily off, they are not dangerous; but if opake, yellow, brown, black, thick, or running together, they are bad.

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It is generally thought that the aphthæ owe their origin to acid humours; we have reaſon however to believe they are more frequently owing to too hot a regimen both of the mother and child. It is a rare thing to find a child who is not doſed with wine, punch, cinnamon waters, or ſome other hot and inflaming liquors, almoſt as ſoon as it is born. It is well known that theſe will occaſion inflammatory diſorders even in adults; is it any wonder then that they ſhould heat and inflame the tender bodies of infants, and ſet, as it were, the whole conſtitution on a blaze?

The moſt proper medicines for the aphthæ are thoſe of a cooling and gently opening nature. Five grains of rhubarb and half a dram of *magneſia alba* may be rubbed together, and divided into ſix doſes, one of which may be given to the child every five or ſix hours till they operate. Theſe powders may either be given in the child's food, or a little of the ſyrup of pale roſes, and may be repeated as often as is found neceſſary to keep the body open.

Many things have been recommended for gargling the mouth and throat in this diſeaſe; but it is not eaſy to apply theſe in very young infants; we would therefore recommend it to the nurſe to rub the child's mouth frequently with a little borax and honey; or with the following mixture: Take fine honey an ounce, borax a dram, burnt alum half a dram, roſe water two drams; mix them together. A very proper ap-

plication in this caſe, is a ſolution of ten or twelve grains of white vitriol in eight ounces of barley-water. Theſe may be applied with the finger, or by means of a bit of ſoft rag tied to the end of a probe.

OF ACIDITIES.

THE food of children being, for the moſt part, of an aceſcent nature, it readily turns ſour upon the ſtomach, eſpecially if the body be any way diſordered. Hence it comes to paſs, that moſt diſeaſes of children are accompanied with evident ſigns of acidity, as green ſtools, gripes, *&c.* Theſe appearances have induced many to believe, that all the diſeaſes of children were owing to an acid abounding in the ſtomach and bowels; but whoever conſiders the matter attentively, will find, that theſe ſymptoms of acidity are oftener the effect than the cauſe of their diſeaſes.

NATURE evidently intended, that the food of children ſhould be aceſcent; and until the body be diſordered, or the digeſtion hurt, from ſome other cauſe, we will venture to ſay, that the aceſcent quality of their food is ſeldom injurious to them. Acidity, however, is often a ſymptom of diſorders in children, and, as it is ſometimes a troubleſome one, we ſhall point out the method of relieving it.

WHEN green ſtools, gripes, purgings, ſour ſmells, *&c.* ſhew, that the bowels abound with an

an acid, the child ſhould have a little ſmall broth inſtead of milk, with light white bread in it; and ſhould have ſufficient exerciſe in order to promote the digeſtion. It has been cuſtomary in this caſe to give the pearl-julep, chalk, crabs eyes, and other teſtaceous powders. Theſe indeed, by their abſorbent quality, may correct the acidity; but they are attended with this inconvenience, that they are apt to lodge in the bowels, and occaſion coſtiveneſs, which may prove very hurtful to the infant. For this reaſon they ſhould never be given unleſs mixed with purgative medicines; as rhubarb, manna, or ſuch like.

The beſt medicine which we know, in all caſes of acidity, is that fine inſipid powder called *magneſia alba*. It purges, and, at the ſame time, corrects the acidity; by which means it not only removes the diſeaſe, but carries off its cauſe. It may be given in any kind of food, from ten grains to a tea-ſpoonful, according to the age of the patient. I have often known it anſwer very well when given in the following manner: Take of *magneſia alba* two drams, fine rhubarb in powder half a dram, peppermint-water and common water, of each two ounces, as much ſyrup of ſugar as will make it agreeable. Shake the bottle, and give the child a table-ſpoonful three or four times a-day.

When an infant is troubled with gripes, it ought not at firſt to be doſed with brandy, ſpiceries, and other hot things, but ſhould have its

body opened with an emollient clyſter, or the medicine mentioned above; and at the ſame time a little brandy may be rubbed on its belly with a warm hand before the fire. I have ſeldom ſeen this fail to eaſe the gripes of infants. If it ſhould happen, however, not to ſucceed, a little brandy or other ſpirits may be mixed with twice its own quantity of water, and ſweetened with a little ſugar, and a ſpoonful of it given frequently till the child be eaſier. Sometimes a little peppermint-water will anſwer this purpoſe very well.

GALLING AND EXCORIATION.

These are very troubleſome to children. They happen chiefly about the groin and wrinkles of the neck, under the arms, behind the ears, and in other parts that are moiſtened by the ſweat or urine.

As theſe complaints are, in a great meaſure, owing to want of cleanlineſs, the moſt effectual means of preventing them are, to waſh the parts frequently with cold water, to change the linen often, and, in a word, to keep the child, in all reſpects, thoroughly clean. When this is not ſufficient, the excoriated parts may be ſprinkled with abſorbent or drying powders; ſuch as, burnt hartſhorn, tutty, chalk, crabs claws prepared, *&c.* *

* One of the beſt applications for this purpoſe, is to diſſolve ſome fuller's earth in a ſufficient quantity of hot water; and after it has ſtood till it is cold, to rub it gently upon the galled parts once or twice a-day.

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When the parts affected are very ſore, and tend to a real ulceration, it will be proper to add a little ſugar of lead to the powders; or to anoint the place with a little camphorated ointment. If the parts be waſhed with ſpring-water, in which a little white vitriol has been diſſolved, it will dry and heal them very powerfully.

STOPPAGE OF THE NOSE.

The noſtrils of infants are often plugged up with a groſs *mucus*, which prevents their breathing freely, and likewiſe renders it difficult for them to ſuck or ſwallow.

Some, in this caſe, order, after a ſuitable purge, two or three grains of white vitriol diſſolved in half an ounce of marjoram water, and filtered, to be applied now and then to the noſtrils with a linen rag. Wedelius ſays, If two grains of white vitriol, and the ſame quantity of *elaterium*, be diſſolved in half an ounce of marjoram water, and applied to the noſe, as above directed, that it brings away the *mucus* without ſneezing.

In obſtinate caſes theſe things may be tried; but we have never found any thing neceſſary, beſides rubbing the noſe at bed-time with a little greaſe, ſweet oil, or freſh butter. This reſolves the filth, and renders the breathing more free.

OF ERUPTIONS.

CHILDREN, while on the breaſt, are ſeldom free from eruptions of one kind or other. Theſe however are not often dangerous, and ought never to be ſtopped but with the greateſt caution. They tend to free the bodies of infants from hot and acrid humours, which, if retained, might produce fatal diſorders.

THE eruptions of children are chiefly owing to the following cauſes, viz. improper food, and neglect of cleanlineſs. If a child be ſtuffed at all hours with food that its ſtomach is not able to digeſt, ſuch food, not being properly aſſimilated, inſtead of nouriſhing the body, fills it with groſs humours. Theſe muſt either break out in form of eruptions upon the ſkin, or remain in the body, and occaſion fevers and other internal diſorders. That neglect of cleanlineſs is a very general cauſe of eruptive diſorders, muſt be obvious to every one. The children of the poor, and of all who deſpiſe cleanlineſs, are almoſt conſtantly found to ſwarm with vermin, and are generally covered with the ſcab, itch, and other eruptions.

WHEN eruptions are the effect of improper food, or want of cleanlineſs, a proper attention to theſe alone will generally be ſufficient to remove them. If this ſhould not be the caſe, ſome drying medicines will be neceſſary; but they ſhould never be applied without the greateſt caution. If drying

medicines are applied, the body ought at the ſame time to be kept open, and cold is carefully to be avoided. We know no medicine that is more ſafe for drying up cutaneous eruptions than ſulphur, provided it be ſparingly uſed. A little of the flowers of ſulphur may be mixed with freſh butter, oil, or hog's lard, and the parts affected frequently touched with it.

The moſt obſtinate of all the eruptions incident to children are, the *tinea capitis*, or ſcabbed head, and chilblains. The ſcabbed head is often exceeding difficult to cure, and ſometimes indeed the cure proves worſe than the diſeaſe. I have frequently known children ſeized with internal diſorders, of which they died ſoon after their ſcabbed heads had been healed by the application of drying medicines *. The cure ought always

* I ſome time ago ſaw a very ſtriking inſtance of the danger of ſubſtituting drying medicines in the place of cleanlineſs and wholeſome food, in the Foundling Hoſpital at Ackworth, where the children were grievouſly afflicted with ſcabbed heads, and other cutaneous diſorders. I found upon inquiry, that very little attention was paid either to the propriety or ſoundneſs of their proviſions, and that cleanlineſs was totally neglected; accordingly I adviſed that they ſhould have more wholeſome food, and be kept thoroughly clean. This advice however was not followed. It was too troubleſome to the ſervants, ſuperintendants, &c. The buſineſs was to be done by medicine; which was accordingly attempted, but had near proved fatal to the whole houſe. Fevers and other internal diſorders immediately appeared, and, at length, a putrid dyſentery, which proved ſo infectious that it carried off a great many of the children.

firſt to be attempted by keeping the head very clean, cutting off the hair, combing and bruſhing away the ſcabs, &c. If this be not ſufficient, let the head be ſhaved once a-week, or oftener, and waſhed daily with ſoap-ſuds, or lime-water. Should theſe fail, a plaſter of black pitch may be applied, in order to pull out the hair by the roots. And if there be proud fleſh, it ſhould be touched with a bit of blue vitriol, or ſprinkled with a little burnt alum. While theſe things are doing, the patient muſt be confined to a regular light diet, his belly ſhould be kept gently open; and cold, as far as poſſible, ought to be avoided. To prevent any bad conſequences from ſtopping this diſcharge, it will be proper, eſpecially in children of a groſs habit, to make an iſſue in the neck or arm, which may be kept open till the patient becomes more ſtrong, and the conſtitution be ſomewhat mended.

Chilblains commonly attack children in cold weather. They are generally occaſioned by the feet or hands being kept long wet or cold, and afterwards ſuddenly heated. When children are cold, inſtead of taking exerciſe to warm themſelves gradually, they run to the fire. This occaſions a ſudden rarefaction of the humours, and an infarction of the veſſels; which being often repeated, the veſſels are, at laſt, over-diſtended, and forced to give way.

To prevent it, violent cold and ſudden heat muſt be equally avoided. When the parts begin

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to look red and ſwell, the patient ought to be purged, and to have the affected parts frequently rubbed with muſtard and brandy, or ſomething of a warming nature. They ought likewiſe to be covered with flannel, and kept warm and dry. Some apply warm aſhes betwixt cloths to the ſwelled parts, which frequently help to reduce them. When there is a ſore, it muſt be dreſſed with Turner's cerate, or ſome other drying ointment; as the ointment of tutty, the plaſter of ceruſs, &c. Theſe ſores are indeed troubleſome, but ſeldom dangerous. They generally heal as ſoon as the warm weather ſets in.

OF THE CROUP.

CHILDREN are often ſeized very ſuddenly with a great difficulty of breathing, which, if not quickly relieved, proves mortal. This diſeaſe is known by various names in different parts of Britain. In the Eaſt coaſt of Scotland it is called the *croup*. On the Weſt they call it the *chock* or *ſtuffing*. In ſome parts of England, where I have obſerved it, the good women call it *the riſing of the lights*. It ſeems to be a ſpecies of *aſthma*, attended with very acute and violent ſymptoms.

THIS diſeaſe generally prevails in cold and wet ſeaſons. It is moſt common upon the ſea-coaſt, and in low marſhy countries. Children of a groſs and lax habit are moſt liable to it. I have ſometimes known it hereditary. It generally attacks

children in the night, after having been much expoſed to damp cold eaſterly winds through the day. Damp houſes, wet feet, thin ſhoes, wet clothes, or any thing that obſtructs the perſpiration, may occaſion the Croup.

It is attended with a frequent pulſe, quick and laborious breathing, which is performed with a peculiar kind of croaking noiſe that may be heard at a conſiderable diſtance. The voice is ſharp and ſhrill, and the face is generally much fluſhed, though ſometimes it is of a livid colour.

When a child is ſeized with the above ſymptoms, his feet ſhould immediately be put into warm water. He ought likewiſe to be bled, and to have a laxative clyſter adminiſtered as ſoon as poſſible. He ſhould be made to breathe over the ſteams of warm water, or an emollient decoction, and emollient cataplaſms or fomentations may be applied round his neck. If the ſymptoms do not abate, a bliſtering plaſter muſt be applied round the neck, or betwixt the ſhoulders, and the child may take frequently a table-ſpoonful of the following julep: Take penny-royal water three ounces, ſyrup of althea and balſamic ſyrup, each one ounce, mix them together.

Some, in this caſe, recommend aſafœtida. It may both be given in form of clyſter, and taken by the mouth. Two drams of aſafœtida may be diſſolved in one ounce of Mindererus's ſpirit, and three ounces of penny-royal water. A table-ſpoonful

ful of this mixture may be given every hour, or oftener if the patient's ſtomach be able to bear it. If the child cannot be brought to take this medicine, two drams of the aſafœtida may be diſſolved in a common clyſter, and adminiſtered every ſix or eight hours, till the violence of the diſeaſe abates.

To prevent a return of the diſorder, all thoſe things which occaſion it muſt be carefully avoided; as wet feet, cold damp eaſterly winds, &c. Children who have had frequent returns of this diſeaſe, or whoſe conſtitution ſeems to diſpoſe them to it, ought to have their diet properly regulated; all food that is viſcid or hard of digeſtion, and all crude, raw, traſhy fruits, are to be avoided. They ought likewiſe to have a drain conſtantly kept open in ſome part of their body, by means of a ſeton or iſſue. I have ſometimes known a Burgundy pitch plaſter, worn continually betwixt the ſhoulders for ſeveral years, have a very happy effect in preventing the return of this dreadful diſorder.

OF TEETHING.

Dr. Arbuthnot obſerves, that above a tenth part of infants die in teething, by ſymptoms proceeding from the irritation of the tender nervous parts of the jaws, occaſioning inflammations, fevers, convulſions, gangrenes, &c. Theſe ſymptoms are, in a great meaſure, owing to the great delicacy

delicacy and exquiſite ſenſibility of the nervous ſyſtem at this time of life, which is too often increaſed by an effeminate education. Hence it comes to paſs, that children who are delicately brought up, always ſuffer moſt in teething, and often fall by convulſive diſorders.

About the ſixth or ſeventh month the teeth generally begin to make their appearance; firſt the *inciſores*, or foreteeth; next the *canini*, or dog-teeth; and laſtly, the *molares*, or grinders. About the ſeventh year, there comes a new ſet; and about the twentieth, the two inner grinders, called *dentes ſapientiæ*, the teeth of wiſdom.

Children, about the time of cutting their teeth, ſlaver much, and have generally a looſeneſs. When the teething is difficult, eſpecially when the dog-teeth begin to make their way through the gums, the child has ſtartings in his ſleep, tumours of the gums, inquietude, watchings, gripes, green ſtools, the thruſh, fever, difficult breathing, and convulſions.

Difficult teething is, in all reſpects, to be treated as an inflammatory diſeaſe. If the belly be bound, it muſt be opened either by emollient clyſters or gentle purgatives; as manna, *magneſia alba*, rhubarb, ſenna, or the like. The food ſhould be light, and in ſmall quantity; the drink plentiful, but weak and diluting, as infuſions of balm, or of the lime-tree flowers; to which about a third or fourth part of milk may be added.

If the fever be very high, bleeding will be neceſſary; but this, in very young children, ought always to be ſparingly performed. It is an evacuation which they bear the worſt of any. Purging, vomiting, or ſweating, agree much better with them, and are generally more beneficial. Harris however obſerves, that, when an inflammation appears, the phyſician will labour in vain, if the *cure* be not begun with applying a leech under each ear. If the child be ſeized with convulſion fits, a bliſtering plaſter may be applied betwixt the ſhoulders, or one behind each ear.

Dr. Sydenham ſays, that in fevers occaſioned by teething, he never found any remedy ſo effectual as two, three, or four drops of ſpirits of hartſhorn in a ſpoonful of ſimple water, or other convenient vehicle, given every four hours. The number of doſes may be four, five, or ſix. I have often preſcribed this medicine with ſucceſs, but always found a larger doſe neceſſary. It may be given from five drops to fifteen or twenty, according to the age of the child.

In Scotland, it is very common, when children are cutting their teeth, to put a ſmall Burgundy pitch plaſter between their ſhoulders. This generally eaſes the tickling cough which attends teething, and is by no means an uſeleſs application. When the teeth are bred with difficulty, it ought to be kept on during the whole time of teething. It may be enlarged as occaſion requires, and ought to be renewed, at leaſt, once a fortnight.

Several

Several things have been recommended for rubbing the gums, as oils, mucilages, &c.; but from theſe much is not to be expected. If any thing of this kind is to be uſed, we would recommend a little fine honey, which may be rubbed on with the finger three or four times a-day. Children are generally at this time diſpoſed to chew whatever they get into their hands. For this reaſon they ought never to be without ſomewhat that will yield a little to the preſſure of their gums, as a cruſt of bread, a wax-candle, a bit of liquorice-root, or ſuch like.

With regard to cutting the gums, we have ſeldom known it of any great advantage. In obſtinate caſes however it ought to be tried. It may be performed by the finger nail, the edge of a ſix-penny piece that is worn thin, or any ſharp body which can be with ſafety introduced into the mouth.

In order to render the teething leſs difficult, parents ought to take care that their children's food be light and wholeſome, and that their nerves be braced by ſufficient exerciſe without doors, the uſe of the cold bath, &c. Were theſe things duly regarded, few children would die of teething.

OF THE RICKETS.

THIS diſeaſe generally attacks children betwixt the age of nine months and two years. It appeared firſt in England, about the time when manufactures began to be introduced, and ſtill prevails moſt in towns where the inhabitants follow ſedentary employments, by which means they neglect either to take proper exerciſe themſelves, or to give it to their children.

CAUSES.—One cauſe of the rickets is diſeaſed parents. Mothers of a weak relaxed habit, who neglect exerciſe, and live upon weak watery diet, can neither be expected to bring forth ſtrong and healthy children, or to be able to nurſe them, after they are brought forth. Accordingly we find, that the children of ſuch women generally die of the rickets, the ſcrophula, conſumptions, or ſuch like diſeaſes. Children begotten by men in the decline of life, who are ſubject to the gout, the gravel, or other chronic diſeaſes, or who have been often affected with the venereal diſeaſe in their youth, are likewiſe very liable to the rickets.

ANY diſorder that weakens the conſtitution, or relaxes the habit of children, as the ſmall-pox, meaſles, teething, the hooping-cough, &c. diſpoſes them to this diſeaſe. It may likewiſe be occaſioned by improper diet, as food that is either too weak and watery, or ſo viſcid that the ſtomach cannot digeſt it.

BAD

Bad nurſing is the chief cauſe of this diſeaſe. When the nurſe is either diſeaſed, or has not enough of milk to nouriſh the child, it cannot thrive. But children ſuffer oftener by want of care in nurſes than want of food. Allowing an infant to lie or ſit too much, or not keeping it thoroughly clean in its clothes, has the moſt pernicious effects.

The want of free air is likewiſe very hurtful to children in this reſpect. When a nurſe lives in a cloſe, ſmall houſe, where the air is damp and confined, and is too indolent to carry her child abroad into the open air, it will hardly eſcape this diſeaſe. A healthy child ſhould always be in motion, unleſs when aſleep; if it be ſuffered to lie, or ſit, inſtead of being toſſed and dandled about, it will not thrive.

SYMPTOMS.——At the beginning of this diſeaſe the child's fleſh grows ſoft and flabby; its ſtrength is diminiſhed; it loſes its wonted cheerfulneſs, looks more grave and compoſed than is natural for its age, and does not chuſe to be moved. The head and belly become too large in proportion to the other parts; the face appears full, and the complexion florid. Afterwards the bones begin to be affected, eſpecially in the more ſoft and ſpungy parts. Hence the wriſts and ancles become thicker than uſual; the ſpine or backbone puts on an unnatural ſhape; the breaſt is likewiſe often deformed; and the bones of the arms and legs grow crooked. All thoſe ſymptoms vary

vary according to the violence of the diſeaſe. The pulſe is generally quick, but feeble; the appetite and digeſtion, for the moſt part, bad; the teeth come ſlowly and with difficulty, and they often rot and fall out afterwards. Ricketty children generally have great acuteneſs of mind, and an underſtanding above their years. Whether this is owing to their being more in the company of adults than other children, or the preternatural enlargement of the brain, is not material.

REGIMEN.——As this diſeaſe is always attended with evident ſigns of weakneſs and relaxation, our chief aim in the cure muſt be to brace and ſtrengthen the ſolids, and to promote digeſtion and the due preparation of the fluids. Theſe important ends will be beſt anſwered by wholeſome nouriſhing diet, ſuited to the age and ſtrength of the patient, open dry air, and ſufficient exerciſe. If the child has a bad nurſe, who either neglects her duty, or does not underſtand it, ſhe ſhould be changed. If the ſeaſon be cold, the child ought to be kept warm; and when the weather is hot, it ought to be kept cool; as ſweating is apt to weaken it; and too great a degree of cold has the ſame effect. The limbs ſhould be rubbed frequently with a warm hand, and the child kept as cheerful as poſſible.

THE diet ought to be light and dry, as good bread, roaſted fleſh, &c. Biſcuit is generally reckoned the beſt bread; and pigeons, pullets, veal, rabbets, or mutton roaſted or minced, are

the moſt proper fleſh. If the child be too young for fleſh-meats, he may have rice, millet, or pearl barley boiled with raiſins, to which may be added a little wine and ſpice. His drink may be good claret, mixed with an equal quantity of water. Thoſe who cannot afford claret, may give the child now and then a wine glaſs of fine mild ale.

MEDICINE.——Medicines are here of little avail. The diſeaſe may often be cured by the nurſe, but ſeldom by the phyſician. In children of a groſs habit, gentle purges or vomits may ſometimes be of uſe; but they will never carry off the malady. That muſt depend upon bracing alone: For which purpoſe, beſides the regimen mentioned above, we would recommend the cold bath, eſpecially in the warm ſeaſon. It muſt however be uſed with prudence, as ſome ricketty children cannot bear it. The beſt time for uſing the cold bath is in the morning, and the child ſhould be well rubbed with a dry cloth immediately after he comes out of it. If the child ſhould be weakened by the cold bath, it muſt be diſcontinued.

Sometimes iſſues have been found beneficial in this diſeaſe. They are peculiarly neceſſary for children who abound with groſs humours. An infuſion of the Peruvian-bark in wine or ale, is likewiſe of uſe; but it is ſcarce poſſible to bring children to take it. We might here mention many other medicines which have been recommended

mended for the rickets; but, as there is far more danger in truſting to theſe than in neglecting them altogether, we chuſe rather to paſs them over, and to recommend a proper regimen as the only thing to be depended on.

OF CONVULSIONS.

THOUGH more children are ſaid to die of convulſions than of any other diſeaſe, yet they are for the moſt part only a ſymptom of ſome other malady. Whatever greatly irritates or ſtimulates the nerves, may occaſion convulſions. Hence infants whoſe nerves are eaſily affected, are often thrown into convulſions by any thing that irritates the alimentary canal; by teething; ſtrait clothes; the approach of the ſmall pox, meaſles, or other eruptive diſeaſes.

WHEN convulſions proceed from an irritation of the ſtomach or bowels, whatever clears them of their acrid contents, or renders theſe mild and inoffenſive, will generally cure the convulſions. Wherefore, if the child be coſtive, the beſt way will be to begin with a clyſter, and afterwards to give a gentle vomit, which may be repeated occaſionally, and the body in the mean time kept open by gentle doſes of magneſia alba, or ſmall quantities of rhubarb mixed with the powder of crabs claws.

CONVULSIONS which precede the eruption of the ſmall-pox, &c. generally go off upon theſe making their appearance. The principal danger in this caſe ariſes from the fears and apprehenſions

of thoſe who have the care of the patient. Convulſions are very alarming, and ſomething muſt be done to appeaſe the affrighted parents, nurſes, &c. Hence the unhappy infant often undergoes bleeding, bliſtering, and ſeveral other operations, to the great danger of its life, when a little time, bathing the feet, and throwing in a mild clyſter, would have ſet all to rights.

When convulſion fits ariſe from the cutting of teeth, beſides gentle evacuations, we would recommend bliſtering and the uſe of antiſpaſmodic medicines, as the tincture of ſoot, aſafœtida, or caſtor. A few drops of any of theſe may be mixed in a cup of white-wine whey, and given occaſionally.

When convulſions proceed from any external cauſe, as the preſſure occaſioned by ſtrait clothes or bandages, &c. theſe ought immediately to be removed; though in this caſe taking away the cauſe will not always remove the effect, yet it ought to be done, as it is not likely that the patient will recover ſo long as the cauſe which firſt gave riſe to the diſorder continues to act.

When a child is ſeized with convulſions without having any complaint in the bowels, or ſymptoms of teething; or any raſh, or other diſcharge which has been ſuddenly dried up, we have reaſon to conclude that they are a primary diſeaſe, and proceed immediately from the brain. Caſes of this kind however happen but ſeldom, which is very fortunate, as little can be done to relieve the unhappy

unhappy patient. When a diſeaſe proceeds from an original fault in the formation or ſtructure of the brain itſelf, we cannot expect that it ſhould yield to medicine. But, as this is not always the cauſe even of convulſions which proceed immediately from the brain, ſome attempts ſhould be made to remove them. The chief intention to be purſued for this purpoſe, is to make ſome derivation from the brain, by bliſtering, purging and the like. Should theſe fail, iſſues or ſetons may be put in the neck, or between the ſhoulders.

OF WATER IN THE HEAD.

THOUGH water in the head, or a dropſy of the brain, may affect adults as well as children, yet, as the latter are more peculiarly liable to it, we thought it would be moſt proper to place it among the diſeaſes of infants.

CAUSES.—A dropſy of the brain may proceed from injuries done to the brain itſelf by falls, blows, or the like; it may likewiſe proceed from an original laxity or weakneſs of the brain; from ſcirrhous tumours or excreſcences within the ſkull; a thin watery ſtate of the blood; a diminiſhed ſecretion of urine; and, laſtly, from tedious and lingering diſeaſes which waſte and conſume the patient.

SYMPTOMS.——This diſeaſe has at firſt the appearance of a ſlow fever; the patient complains of a pain in the crown of his head, or over

his eyes; he ſhuns the light; is ſick, and ſometimes vomits; his pulſe is irregular and generally ſlow: though he ſeems heavy and dull, yet he does not ſleep; he is ſometimes delirious, and frequently ſees objects double; towards the end of this commonly fatal diſeaſe, the pulſe becomes more frequent, the pupils are dilated, the cheeks flushed, the patient becomes comatoſe, and convulſions enſue.

MEDICINE.——No medicine has hitherto been found ſufficient to carry off a dropſy of the brain. It is laudable however to make ſome attempts, as time or chance may bring to light what at preſent we have no ideas of. The medicines generally uſed are, purges of rhubarb or jalap with calomel, and bliſtering plaſters applied to the neck or back part of the head. To which we would beg leave to add diuretics, or medicines which promote the ſecretion of urine, ſuch as are recommended in the common dropſy. A diſcharge from the noſe ought likewiſe to be promoted by cauſing the patient ſnuff the powder of aſarum, white hellebore, or the like.

CHAP.

CHAP. L.

OF SURGERY.

TO deſcribe the various operations of ſurgery, and to point out the different diſeaſes in which theſe operations are neceſſary, would extend this article far beyond the limits ſet to it: We muſt therefore confine our obſervations to ſuch caſes as moſt generally occur, and in which proper aſſiſtance is either not aſked, or not always to be obtained.

THOUGH an acquaintance with the ſtructure of the human body is indiſpenſibly neceſſary to qualify a man for being an expert ſurgeon; yet many things may be done to ſave the lives of their fellow men in emergencies by thoſe who are no adepts in anatomy. It is amazing with what facility the peaſants daily perform operations upon brute animals which are not of a leſs difficult nature than many of thoſe performed on the human ſpecies; yet they ſeldom fail of ſucceſs.

INDEED every man is in ſome meaſure a ſurgeon whether he will or not. He feels an inclination to aſſiſt his fellow-creatures in diſtreſs, and accidents happen every hour which give occaſion to exerciſe this feeling. The feelings of the heart however, when not directed by the judgment, are apt to miſlead. Thus one, by a raſh attempt to ſave his friend, may ſometimes deſtroy him; while another, for fear of doing amiſs, ſtands ſtill and

ſees his boſom friend periſh, without ſo much as attempting to relieve him, even when the means are in his power. As every good man would wiſh to ſteer a courſe different from either of theſe, it will no doubt be agreeable to him to know what ought to be done upon any ſuch emergencies.

OF BLEEDING.

No operation of ſurgery is ſo frequently neceſſary as bleeding; it ought therefore to be very generally underſtood. But though practiſed by Midwives, Gardeners, Blackſmiths, &c. we have reaſon to believe that very few know when it is neceſſary. Even phyſicians themſelves have been ſo much the dupes of faſhion in this article, as to render it the ſubject of ſatire and ridicule. It is however an operation of great importance, and muſt, when ſeaſonably and properly performed, be of ſingular ſervice to thoſe in diſtreſs.

Bleeding is proper at the beginning of all inflammatory fevers, as pleuriſies, peripneumonies, &c. It is likewiſe proper in all topical inflammations, as thoſe of the inteſtines, womb, bladder, ſtomach, kidnies, throat, eyes, &c.; as alſo in the aſthma, ſciatic pains, coughs, head-achs, rheumatiſms, the apoplexy, epilepſy and bloody-flux. After falls, blows, bruiſes, or any violent hurt received either externally or internally, bleeding is neceſſary. It is likewiſe neceſſary for perſons who have had the misfortune to be ſtrangled, drowned,

drowned, ſuffocated with foul air, the fumes of metals, or the like. In a word, whenever the vital motions have been ſuddenly ſtopt from any cauſe whatever, except in ſwoonings occaſioned by mere weakneſs or hyſteric affections, it is proper to open a vein. But in all diſorders proceeding from a relaxation of the ſolids, and an impoveriſhed ſtate of the blood, as dropſies, cacochymies, &c. bleeding is improper.

Bleeding for topical inflammations ought always to be performed as near the part affected as poſſible. When this can be done with a lancet, it is to be preferred to any other method, but where a vein cannot be found, recourſe muſt be had to leeches or cupping.

The quantity of blood to be let muſt always be regulated by the ſtrength, age, conſtitution, manner of life, and other circumſtances relating to the patient. It would be ridiculous to ſuppoſe that a child could bear to loſe as much blood as a grown perſon, or that a delicate lady ſhould be bled to the ſame extent as a robuſt man.

From whatever part of the body blood is to be let, a bandage muſt be applied betwixt that part and the heart. As it is often neceſſary, in order to raiſe the vein, to make the bandage pretty tight, it will be proper in ſuch caſes, as ſoon as the blood begins to flow, to ſlacken it a little. The bandage ought to be applied at leaſt an inch, or an inch and half, from the place where the wound is intended to be made.

Persons

Persons not ſkilled in anatomy ought never to bleed in a vein that lies over an artery or a tendon, if they can avoid it. The former may eaſily be known from its pulſation or beating, and the latter from its feeling hard and tight like a whip-cord under the finger.

It was formerly a rule, even among thoſe who had the character of being regular practitioners, to bleed their patients in certain diſeaſes till they fainted. Surely a more ridiculous rule could not be propoſed. One perſon will faint at the very ſight of a lancet, while another will loſe almoſt the whole blood of his body before he faints. Swooning depends more upon the ſtate of the mind than of the body; beſides, it may often be occaſioned or prevented by the manner in which the operation is performed.

Children are generally bled with leeches. This, though ſometimes neceſſary, is a very troubleſome and uncertain practice. It is impoſſible to know what quantity of blood is taken away by leeches; beſides, the bleeding is often very difficult to ſtop, and the wounds are not eaſily healed. Would thoſe who practiſe bleeding take a little more pains, and accuſtom themſelves to bleed children, they would not find it ſuch a difficult operation as they imagine.

Certain hurtful prejudices with regard to bleeding ſtill prevail among the country people. They talk, for inſtance, of head-veins, heart-veins, breaſt-veins, &c. and believe that bleeding in theſe

theſe will certainly cure all diſeaſes of the parts from whence they are ſuppoſed to come, without conſidering that all the blood-veſſels ariſe from the heart, and return to it again; for which reaſon, unleſs in topical inflammations, it ſignifies very little from what part of the body blood be taken. But this, though a fooliſh prejudice, is not near ſo hurtful as the vulgar notion, that the firſt bleeding will perform wonders. This belief makes them often poſtpone the operation when neceſſary, in order to reſerve it for ſome more important occaſion, and when they think themſelves in extreme danger they fly to it for relief, whether it be proper or not; bleeding at certain ſtated periods or ſeaſons has likewiſe bad effects.

It is likewiſe a common notion that bleeding in the feet draws the humours downwards, and conſequently cures diſeaſes of the head and other ſuperior parts; but we have already obſerved that, in all topical affections, the blood ought to be drawn as near the part as poſſible. When it is neceſſary however, to bleed in the foot or hand, as the veins are ſmall, and the bleeding is apt to ſtop too ſoon, the part ought to be immerſed in warm water, and kept there till a ſufficient quantity of blood be let.

We ſhall not ſpend time in deſcribing the manner of performing this operation. That will be better learned by example than precept. Twenty pages of deſcription would not convey ſo juſt an idea of the operation as ſeeing it once performed by

by an expert hand. Neither is it neceſſary to point out the different parts of the body from whence blood may be let, as the arm, forehead, temples, neck, &c. Theſe will readily occur to every intelligent perſon, and the foregoing obſervations will be ſufficient for determining which of them is moſt proper upon any particular occaſion. In all caſes where the intention is only to leſſen the general maſs of blood, the arm is the moſt commodious part of the body in which the operation can be performed.

OF INFLAMMATIONS AND ABSCESSES.

From whatever cauſe an inflammation proceeds, it muſt terminate either by diſperſion, ſuppuration, or gangrene. Though it is impoſſible to foretel with certainty in which of theſe ways any particular inflammation will terminate, yet a probable conjecture may be formed with regard to the event, from a knowledge of the patient's age and conſtitution. Inflammations happening in a ſlight degree upon colds, and without any previous indiſpoſition, will moſt probably be diſperſed; thoſe which follow cloſe upon a fever, or happen to perſons of a groſs habit of body, will generally ſuppurate; and thoſe which attack very old people, or perſons of a dropſical habit, will have a ſtrong tendency to gangrene.

If the inflammation be ſlight, and the conſtitution ſound, the diſperſion ought always to be attempted. This will be beſt promoted by a ſlender diluting diet, plentiful bleeding and repeated purges. The part itſelf muſt be fomented, and, if the ſkin be very tenſe, it may be embrocated with a mixture of three-fourths of ſweet oil, and one-fourth of vinegar, and afterwards covered with a piece of wax plaſter.

If, notwithſtanding theſe applications, the ſymptomatic fever encreaſes, and the tumour becomes larger, with violent pain and pulſation, it will be proper to promote the ſuppuration. The beſt application for this purpoſe is a ſoft poultice, which may be renewed twice a-day. If the ſuppuration proceeds but ſlowly, a raw onion cut ſmall or bruiſed may be ſpread upon the poultice. When the abſceſs is ripe or fit for opening, which may eaſily be known from the thinneſs of the ſkin in the moſt prominent part of it, a fluctuation of matter which may be felt under the finger, and, generally ſpeaking, an abatement of the pain, it may be opened either with a lancet or by means of cauſtic.

The laſt way in which an inflammation terminates is in a gangrene or mortification, the approach of which may be known by the following ſymptoms: The inflammation loſes its redneſs, and becomes duſkiſh or livid; the tenſion of the ſkin goes off, and it feels flabby; little bladders filled with ichor of different colours ſpread all over

over it; the tumour ſubſides, and from a duſkiſh complexion becomes black; a quick low pulſe, with cold clammy ſweats, are the immediate forerunners of death. When theſe ſymptoms firſt appear, the part ought to be dreſſed with London treacle, or a cataplaſm made of lixivium and bran; ſhould the ſymptoms become worſe, the part muſt be ſcarified, and afterwards dreſſed with baſilicum ſoftened with oil of turpentine. All the dreſſings muſt be applied warm. With regard to internal medicines, the patient muſt be ſupported with generous cordials, and the Peruvian bark exhibited in as large doſes as the ſtomach will bear it. If the mortified parts ſhould ſeparate, the wound will become a common ulcer, and muſt be treated as ſuch.

THIS article includes the treatment of all thoſe diſeaſes, which, in different parts of the country go by the names of *biles*, *impoſthumes*, *whitlows*, &c. They are all abſceſſes in conſequence of a previous inflammation, which, if poſſible, ought to be diſcuſſed; but when this cannot be done, the ſuppuration ſhould be promoted, and the matter diſcharged by an inciſion, if neceſſary; afterwards the ſore may be dreſſed with yellow baſilicum, or ſome other digeſtive ointment.

OF WOUNDS.

NO part of medicine has been more miſtaken than the treatment or cure of wounds. Man-

kind in general believe, that certain herbs, ointments, and plaſters are poſſeſſed of wonderful healing virtues, and imagine that no wound can be cured without the application of them. It is however a fact, that no external application whatever contributes towards the cure of a wound, any other way than by keeping the parts ſoft, and defending them from the external air, which may be as effectually done by dry lint as by the moſt pompous applications, while it is exempt from many of the bad conſequences attending them.

The ſame obſervation holds with reſpect to internal applications. Theſe only promote the cure of wounds ſo far as they tend to prevent a fever, or to remove any cauſe that might obſtruct or impede the operations of Nature. It is Nature alone that cures wounds; all that Art can do is to remove obſtacles, and to put the parts in ſuch a condition as is the moſt favourable to Nature's efforts.

With this ſimple view, we ſhall conſider the treatment of wounds, and endeavour to point out ſuch ſteps as ought to be taken to facilitate their cure.

The firſt thing to be done when a perſon has received a wound is to examine whether any foreign body be lodged in it, as wood, ſtone, iron, lead, glaſs, dirt, bits of cloth, or the like. Theſe, if poſſible, ought to be extracted, and the wound cleaned, before any dreſſings be applied. When that cannot be effected with ſafety, on account of the patient's weakneſs, or loſs of blood, they muſt

be

be ſuffered to remain in the wound, and afterwards extracted when he is more able to bear it.

When a wound penetrates into any of the cavities of the body, as the breaſt, the bowels, &c. or where any conſiderable blood-veſſel is cut, a ſkilful ſurgeon ought immediately to be called, otherwiſe the patient may loſe his life. But ſometimes the diſcharge of blood is ſo great, that if it be not ſtopt, the patient may die even before a ſurgeon, though at no great diſtance, can arrive. In this caſe, ſomething muſt be done by thoſe who are preſent. If the wound be in any of the limbs, the bleeding may generally be ſtopt by applying a tight ligature or bandage round the member a little above the wound. The beſt method of doing this is to put a ſtrong broad garter round the part, but ſo ſlack as eaſily to admit a ſmall piece of ſtick to be put under it, which muſt be twiſted, in the ſame manner as a country-man does a cart-rope to ſecure his loading, till the bleeding ſtops. Whenever this is the caſe, he muſt take care to twiſt it no longer, as ſtraining it too much might occaſion an inflammation of the parts, and endanger a gangrene.

In parts where this bandage cannot be applied, various other methods may be tried to ſtop the bleeding, as the application of ſtyptics, aſtringents, &c. Cloths dipped in a ſolution of blue vitriol in water, or the *ſyptic water* of the Diſpenſatories, may be applied to the wound. When theſe cannot be obtained, ſtrong ſpirits of wine may be uſed.

Some

Some recommend the *Agaric* * of the oak as preferable to any of the other ſtyptics; and indeed it deſerves conſiderable encomiums. It is eaſily obtained, and ought to be kept in every family, in caſe of accidents. A piece of it muſt be laid upon the wound, and covered with a good deal of lint, above which a bandage may be applied ſo tight as to keep it firmly on.

Though ſpirits, tinctures, and hot balſams may be uſed, in order to ſtop the bleeding when it is exceſſive, they are improper at other times. They do not promote but retard the cure, and often change a ſimple wound into an ulcer. People imagine, becauſe hot balſams congeal the blood, and ſeem, as it were, to ſolder up the wound, that

* Dr Tiſſot, in his *Advice to the People*, gives the following directions for gathering, preparing, and applying the agaric. ——"Gather in autumn, ſays he, while the fine weather laſts, the agaric of the oak, which is a kind of fungus or excreſcence iſſuing from the wood of that tree. It conſiſts at firſt of four parts, which preſent themſelves ſucceſſively: 1. The outward rind or ſkin, which may be thrown away. 2. The part immediately under this rind, which is the beſt of all. This is to be beat well with a hammer, till it becomes ſoft and very pliable. This is the only preparation it requires, and a ſlice of it of a proper ſize is to be applied directly over the burſting open blood-veſſels. It conſtringes and brings them cloſe together, ſtops the bleeding, and generally falls off at the end of two days. 3. The third part adhering to the ſecond may ſerve to ſtop the bleeding from the ſmaller veſſels; and the fourth and laſt part may be reduced to powder as conducing to the ſame purpoſe. —— Where the agaric cannot be had, ſponge may be uſed in its ſtead. It muſt be applied in the ſame manner, and has nearly the ſame effects.

they therefore heal it; but this is only a deception. They may indeed ſtop the flowing blood, by ſearing the mouths of the veſſels; but, by rendering the parts callous, they obſtruct the cure.

In ſlight wounds which do not penetrate much deeper than the ſkin, the beſt application is a bit of the common black ſticking plaſter. This keeps the ſides of the wound together, and prevents the air from hurting it, which is all that is neceſſary. When a wound penetrates deep, it is not ſafe to keep its lips quite cloſe; this keeps in the matter, and is apt to make the wound feſter. In this caſe the beſt way is to fill the wound with ſoft lint, commonly called *caddis*. It however muſt not be ſtuffed in too hard, otherwiſe it will do hurt. The caddis may be covered with a cloth dipped in oil, or ſpread with the common wax * plaſter; and the whole muſt be kept on by a proper bandage.

We ſhall not ſpend time in deſcribing the different bandages that may be proper for wounds in different parts of the body; common ſenſe will generally ſuggeſt the moſt commodious method of applying a bandage; beſides, deſcriptions of this kind are not eaſily underſtood or remembered.

* The wax plaſter is made by melting together over a ſlow fire, a pound of yellow wax; white reſin, and mutton ſuet, of each half a pound. This not only ſupplies the place of melilot plaſter, formerly ſo much in vogue, but makes a very proper application to ſlight wounds, and to large ones after they are nearly healed.

The firſt dreſſing ought to continue on for at leaſt two days; after which it may be removed, and freſh lint applied as before. If any part of the firſt dreſſing ſticks ſo cloſe as not to be removed with eaſe or ſafety to the patient, it may be allowed to continue, and freſh lint dipped in ſweet oil laid over it. This will ſoften it ſo as to make it come off eaſily at next dreſſing. Afterwards the wound may be dreſſed twice a-day in the ſame manner till it be quite heal. Thoſe who are fond of ſalves or ointments, may, after the wound is become very ſuperficial, dreſs it, with the yellow *baſilicum** ; and if fungous, or what is called *proud fleſh*, ſhould riſe in the wound, it may be checked, by mixing with the ointment, a little burnt alum or red precipitate of mercury.

When a wound is greatly inflamed, the moſt proper application is a poultice of bread and milk, ſoftened with a little ſweet oil or freſh butter. This muſt be applied inſtead of the plaſter, and ſhould be changed two or three times a-day.

If the wound be large, and there is reaſon to fear an inflammation, the patient ſhould be kept on a very low diet. He muſt abſtain from fleſh, ſtrong liquors, and every thing that is of a heating

* The ointment called yellow baſilicum is prepared in the following manner: Take of olive oil an Engliſh pint, yellow wax, yellow reſin, and Burgundy pitch, of each one pound; common turpentine three ounces. Melt the wax, reſin, and pitch, along with the oil over a ſlow fire; after taking them from the fire, add the turpentine, and, whilſt the mixture remains hot, ſtrain it.

nature. If he be of a full habit, and has loſt but little blood from the wound, he muſt be bled; and, if the ſymptoms be urgent, the operation may be repeated. But when the patient has been greatly weakened by loſs of blood from the wound, it will be dangerous to bleed him, even though a fever ſhould enſue. Nature ſhould never be too far exhauſted. It is always more ſafe to allow her to ſtruggle with the diſeaſe in her own way, than to ſink the patient's ſtrength by exceſſive evacuations.

WOUNDED perſons ought to be kept perfectly quiet and eaſy. Every thing that ruffles the mind, or moves the paſſions, as love, anger, fear, exceſſive joy, &c. are very hurtful. They ought, above all things, to abſtain from venery. The belly ſhould be kept gently open either by laxative clyſters, or by a cool vegetable diet, as roaſted apples, ſtewed prunes, boiled ſpinnage, &c.

OF BURNS.

IN ſlight burns which do not break the ſkin, it is cuſtomary to hold the part near the fire for a competent time, to rub it with ſalt, or to lay a compreſs upon it dipped in ſpirits of wine or brandy. But when the burn has penetrated ſo deep as to bliſter or break the ſkin, it muſt be dreſſed with ſome emollient and gently drying ointment of calamine, commonly called *Turner's cerate*.

cerate *. This may be mixed with an equal quantity of freſh olive oil, and ſpread upon a ſoft rag, and applied to the part affected. When this ointment cannot be had, an egg may be beat up with about an equal quantity of the ſweeteſt ſalad oil. This will ſerve very well till a proper ointment can be prepared. When the burning is very deep, after the firſt two or three days, it ſhould be dreſſed with equal parts of yellow *baſilicum* and *Turner's cerate* mixed together.

When the burn is violent, or has occaſioned a high degree of inflammation, and there is reaſon to fear a gangrene or mortification, the ſame means muſt be uſed to prevent it as are recommended in other violent inflammations. The patient, in this caſe, muſt live low, and drink freely of weak diluting liquors. He muſt likewiſe be bled, and have his belly kept open. But if the burnt parts became livid or black, with other ſymptoms of mortification, it will be neceſſary to bathe them frequently with warm camphorated ſpirits of wine, tincture of myrrh, or other antiſeptics mixed with a decoction of the bark. In this caſe the bark muſt likewiſe be taken internally, and the patient's diet muſt be more generous.

* Turner's cerate may be prepared by diſſolving half a pound of yellow wax in an Engliſh pint of olive oil, over a ſlow fire. As the mixture cools, and begins to grow ſtiff, half a pound of calamine prepared muſt be ſprinkled into it, keeping conſtantly ſtirring them together till the cerate is grown quite cold.

OF BRUISES.

Bruises are generally productive of worſe conſequences than wounds. The danger from them does not appear immediately, by which means it often happens that they are neglected. It is needleſs to give any definition of a diſeaſe ſo univerſally known; we ſhall therefore proceed to point out the method of treating it.

In ſlight bruiſes it will be ſufficient to bathe the part with warm vinegar, to which a little brandy or rum may be added, and to keep cloths wet with this mixture conſtantly applied to it. This is more proper than rubbing it with brandy, ſpirits of wine, or other ardent ſpirits, which are commonly uſed in ſuch caſes.

In ſome parts of the country the peaſants apply to a recent bruiſe a cataplaſm of freſh cow-dung, with very happy effects *.

When a bruiſe is very violent, the patient ought immediately to be bled, and put upon a proper regimen. His food ſhould be light and cool, and his drink weak, and of an opening nature; as whey ſweetened with honey, decoctions of tamarinds, barley, cream-tartar-whey, and ſuch like. The bruiſed part muſt be bathed with vinegar and water, as directed above; and a poultice made

* I have often ſeen this cataplaſm applied to violent contuſions occaſioned by blows, falls, bruiſes and ſuch like, and never once knew it fail to have a good effect.

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by boiling crumb of bread, elder-flowers, and camomile-flowers, in equal quantities of vinegar and water, applied to it. This poultice is peculiarly proper when a wound is joined to the bruiſe. It may be renewed two or three times a-day.

As the ſtructure of the veſſels is totally deſtroyed by a violent bruiſe, there often enſues a great loſs of ſubſtance, which produces an ulcerous ſore very difficult to cure. If the bone be affected, the ſore will not heal before an exfoliation takes place, that is, before the diſeaſed part of the bone ſeparates, and comes out through the wound. This is often a very ſlow operation, and may even require ſeveral years to be completed. Hence it happens, that theſe ſores are frequently miſtaken for the King's-evil, and treated as ſuch, though, in fact, they proceed ſolely from the injury which the ſolid parts received from the blow *.

* Patients in this ſituation are peſtered with different advices. Every one who ſees them propoſes a new remedy, till the ſore is, in a manner, poiſoned with various and oppoſite applications, and is often at length rendered abſolutely incurable. The beſt method of managing ſuch ſores is, to take care that the patient's conſtitution does not ſuffer by confinement, or improper medicine, and to apply nothing to them but ſome ſimple ointment ſpread upon ſoft lint, over which a poultice of bread and milk, with boiled camomile flowers, or the like, may be put to nouriſh the part, and keep it ſoft and warm. Nature, thus aſſiſted, will generally in time operate a cure, by throwing off the diſeaſed parts of the bone, after which the ſore ſoon heals.

OF ULCERS.

ULCERS may be the conſequence of wounds, bruiſes, or impoſthumes improperly treated; but they generally proceed from an ill ſtate of the humours, or what may be called a bad habit of body.

WHEN this is the caſe, they ought not to be haſtily dried up, otherwiſe it may prove fatal to the patient. Ulcers happen moſt commonly in the decline of life; and perſons who neglect exerciſe, and live groſsly, are moſt liable to them. They might often be prevented by retrenching ſome part of the ſolid food, or by opening artificial drains, as iſſues, ſetons, or the like.

AN ulcer may be diſtinguiſhed from a wound by its diſcharging a thin watery humour, which is often ſo acrid as to inflame and corrode the ſkin; by the hardneſs and perpendicular ſituation of its ſides or edges, by the time of its duration, &c.

IT requires conſiderable ſkill to be able to judge when an ulcer ought to be healed, and when not. In general, all ulcers which proceed from a bad habit of body ſhould be ſuffered to continue open at leaſt till the conſtitution be ſo far changed by proper regimen, or the uſe of medicine, that they ſeem diſpoſed to heal of their own accord. Ulcers which are the effect of malignant fevers, or other acute diſeaſes, may generally be healed with ſafety

ſafety after the health has been reſtored for ſome time. The cure ought not however to be attempted too ſoon, nor at any time without the uſe of purging medicines and a proper regimen. When wounds or bruiſes have, by wrong treatment, degenerated into ulcers, if the conſtitution be good, they may generally be healed with ſafety. When ulcers either accompany chronical diſeaſes, or come in their ſtead, they muſt be cautiouſly healed. If an ulcer conduces to the patient's health, from whatever cauſe it proceeds, it ought not to be healed; but if, on the contrary, it waſtes the ſtrength, and conſumes the patient by a ſlow fever, it ſhould be healed as ſoon as poſſible.

We would earneſtly recommend a ſtrict attention to theſe particulars, to all who have the misfortune to labour under this diſorder, particularly perſons in the decline of life; as we have frequently known people throw away their lives by the want of it, while they were extolling and generouſly rewarding thoſe whom they ought to have looked upon as their murderers.

The moſt proper regimen for promoting the cure of ulcers, is to avoid all ſpices, ſalted and high-ſeaſoned food, all ſtrong liquors, and to leſſen the uſual quantity of fleſh-meat. The belly ought to be kept gently open by a diet conſiſting chiefly of cooling laxative vegetables, and by drinking butter-milk-whey ſweetened with honey, or the like. The patient ought to be kept cheerful,

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and ſhould take as much exerciſe as he can eaſily bear.

When the bottom and ſides of an ulcer ſeem hard and callous, they may be ſprinkled twice a-day with a little red precipitate of mercury, and afterwards dreſſed with the yellow *baſilicum* ointment. Sometimes it will be neceſſary to have the edges of the ulcer ſcarified with a lancet.

Lime-water has frequently been known to have very happy effects in the cure of obſtinate ulcers. It may be uſed in the ſame manner as directed for the ſtone and gravel.

My late learned and ingenious friend, Dr. Whytt, ſtrongly recommends the uſe of the ſolution of corroſive ſublimate of mercury in brandy, for the cure of obſtinate ill-conditioned ulcers. I have frequently found this medicine, when given according to the Doctor's directions, prove very ſucceſsful. The doſe is a table-ſpoonful night and morning; at the ſame time waſhing the ſore twice or thrice a-day with it. In a letter which I had from the Doctor a little before his death, he informed me, "That he obſerved waſhing the ſore thrice a-day with the ſolution of a triple ſtrength was very beneficial."

OF DISLOCATIONS.

When a bone is moved out of its place, or articulation, ſo as to impede its proper functions, it is ſaid to be *luxated* or *diſlocated*. As this often happens

happens to perſons in ſituations where no medical aſſiſtance can be obtained, by which means limbs and even lives are frequently loſt, we ſhall endeavour to point out the method of reducing the moſt common luxations, and thoſe which require the moſt immediate aſſiſtance. Any perſon of common ſenſe and reſolution, who is preſent when a diſlocation happens, may often be of more ſervice to the patient than the moſt expert ſurgeon can after the ſwelling and inflammation have come on. When theſe are preſent, it is difficult to know the ſtate of the joint, and dangerous to attempt a reduction; and by waiting till they are gone off, the muſcles become ſo relaxed, and the cavity filled up, that the bone can never afterwards be retained in its place.

A RECENT diſlocation may generally be reduced by extenſion alone, which muſt always be greater or leſs according to the ſtrength of the muſcles which move the joint, the age, robuſtneſs and other circumſtances of the patient. When the bone has been out of its place for ſome time, and a ſwelling or inflammation has come on, it will be neceſſary to bleed the patient, and, after fomenting the part, to apply ſoft poultices with vinegar to it for ſome time before the reduction be attempted. All that is neceſſary after the reduction is to keep the part eaſy, and to apply to it cloths dipt in vinegar or camphorated ſpirits of wine. Many bad conſequences proceed from the neglect of this rule. A diſlocation ſeldom happens with-

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out the tendons and ligaments of the joint being ſtretched and ſometimes torn. When theſe are kept eaſy till they recover their ſtrength and tone, all goes on very well, but if the injury be increaſed by too frequent an exertion of the parts, no wonder if they be found weak and diſeaſed ever after.

DISLOCATION OF THE JAW.

The lower jaw may be luxated by yawning, blows, falls, chewing hard ſubſtances or the like. It is eaſily known from the patient's being unable to ſhut his mouth or eat any thing, as the teeth of the under-jaw do not correſpond with thoſe of the upper; beſides, the chin either hangs down or is thrown towards one ſide, and the patient is neither able to ſpeak diſtinctly nor to ſwallow without conſiderable difficulty.

The uſual method of reducing a diſlocated jaw, is to ſet the patient upon a low ſtool ſo as an aſſiſtant may hold the head firm by preſſing it againſt his breaſt. The operator is then to thruſt his two thumbs, being firſt wrapped up with linnen cloths that they may not ſlip, as far back into the patient's mouth as he can, while his fingers are applied to the jaw externally. After he has got firm hold of the jaw, he is to preſs it ſtrongly downwards and backwards, by which means the elapſed heads of the jaw may be eaſily puſhed into their former cavities.

The peaſants in ſome parts of the country have a peculiar way of performing this operation. One of them puts a handkerchief under the patient's chin, then turning his back to that of the patient, pulls him up by the chin ſo as to ſuſpend him from the ground. This method often ſucceeds, but we think it a dangerous one, and therefore recommend the other.

DISLOCATION OF THE NECK.

The neck may be diſlocated by falls, violent blows or the like. In this caſe, if the patient receives no aſſiſtance, he ſoon dies, which makes people imagine the neck was broken: It is however, for the moſt part, only partially diſlocated, and may be reduced by almoſt any perſon who has reſolution enough to attempt it. A complete diſlocation of the neck is inſtantaneous death.

When the neck is diſlocated, the patient is immediately deprived of all ſenſe and motion; his neck ſwells, his countenance appears bloated; his chin lies upon his breaſt, and his face is generally turned towards one ſide.

To reduce this diſlocation, the unhappy perſon ſhould immediately be laid upon his back on the ground, and the operator muſt place himſelf behind him ſo as to be able to lay hold of his head with both hands, while he makes a reſiſtance by placing his knees againſt the patients ſhoulders. In this poſture he muſt pull the head with conſiderable

conſiderable force, gently twiſting it at the ſame time, if the face be turned to one ſide, till he perceives that the joint is replaced, which may be known from the noiſe which the bones generally make when going in, the patient's beginning to breathe, and the head continuing in its natural poſture.

This is one of thoſe operations which it is more eaſy to perform than deſcribe. I have known inſtances of its being happily performed even by women, and often by men of no medical education. After the neck is reduced, the patient ought to be bled, and ſhould be ſuffered to reſt for ſome days till the parts recover their proper tone.

DISLOCATION OF THE RIBS.

As the articulation of the ribs with the backbone is very ſtrong, they are not often diſlocated. It does however ſometimes happen, which is a ſufficient reaſon for our taking notice of it. When a rib is diſlocated either upwards or downwards, in order to replace it the patient ſhould be laid upon his belly on a table, and the operator muſt endeavour to puſh the head of the bone into its proper place. Should this method not ſucceed, the arm of the diſordered ſide may be ſuſpended over a gate or ladder, and, while the ribs are thus ſtretched aſunder, the heads of ſuch as are out of place may be thruſt into their former ſituation.

Those

Those diſlocations wherein the heads of the ribs are forced inwards, are both moſt dangerous and the moſt difficult to reduce, as neither the hand nor any inſtrument can be applied internally to direct the luxated heads of the ribs. Almoſt the only thing that can be done is, to lay the patient upon his belly over a caſk, or ſome gibbous body, and to move the fore-part of the rib inwards toward the back, ſometimes ſhaking it; by this means, the heads of the luxated ribs will ſometimes ſlip into their former place.

DISLOCATION OF THE SHOULDER.

The humerus or upper bone of the arm may be diſlocated in various directions: It happens however moſt frequently downwards, but very ſeldom directly upwards. It may be known by a depreſſion or cavity on the top of the ſhoulder, and an inability to move the arm: When the diſlocation is downward or forward, the arm is elongated, and a ball or lump is perceived under the arm-pit; but when it is luxated backward, there appears a protuberance behind the ſhoulder, and the arm is thrown forwards toward the breaſt.

The uſual method of reducing diſlocations of the ſhoulder is to ſeat the patient upon a low ſtool, and to cauſe an aſſiſtant to hold his body ſo that it may not give way to the extenſion, while another lays hold of the arm a little above the elbow and gradually extends it. The operator then puts

puts a napkin under the patient's arm, and cauſes it to be tied behind his own neck; by this, while a ſufficient extenſion is made, he lifts up the head of the bone, and with his hands directs it into its proper place. There are various machines invented for facilitating this operation, but the hand of an expert ſurgeon is always more ſafe. In young and delicate patients, I have generally found it a very eaſy matter to reduce the ſhoulder by extending the arm with one hand, and thruſting in the head of the bone with the other. In making the extenſion, the arm ought always to be a little bent.

DISLOCATION OF THE ELBOW.

The bones of the fore-arm may be diſlocated in any direction. When this is the caſe, a protuberance may be obſerved on that ſide of the arm towards which the bone is puſhed, from which, and the patient's inability to bend his arm, a diſlocation of this joint may eaſily be known.

Two aſſiſtants are generally neceſſary for reducing a diſlocation of the elbow; one of which muſt lay hold of the arm above, and the other below the joint, and make a pretty ſtrong extenſion, while the operator returns the bones into their proper place. Afterwards the arm muſt be bent, and ſuſpended for ſome time with a ſling about the neck.

Luxations of the wriſt and fingers are to be reduced in the ſame manner as thoſe of the elbow, viz.

by making an extenſion in different directions and thruſting the head of the bone into its cavity.

DISLOCATION OF THE THIGH.

When the thigh bone is diſlocated forward and downward, the knee and foot are turned out, and the leg is longer than the other; but when it is diſplaced backward, it is uſually puſhed upward at the ſame time, by which means the limb is ſhortened and the foot is turned inwards.

When the thigh bone is diſplaced forward and downward, the patient, in order to have it reduced, muſt be laid upon his back, and made faſt by bandages, or held by aſſiſtants, while by others an extenſion is made by means of ſlings fixt about the bottom of the thigh a little above the knee. While the extenſion is made, the operator muſt puſh the head of the bone outward, till it gets into the ſocket. If the diſlocation be outward, the patient muſt be laid upon his face, and, during the extenſion, the head of the bone muſt be puſhed inward.

Dislocations of the *knees*, *ancles* and *toes* are reduced much in the ſame manner as thoſe of the upper extremities, viz. by making an extenſion in oppoſite directions, while the operator replaces the bones. In many caſes, however, the extenſion alone is ſufficient, and the bone will ſlip into its place merely by pulling the limb with ſufficient force.

OF BROKEN BONES.

THERE is in moſt country villages ſome perſon who pretends to the art of reducing fractures. Though in general ſuch perſons are very ignorant, yet ſome of them are very ſucceſsful; which evidently proves, that a ſmall degree of learning, with a ſufficient ſhare of common ſenſe and a mechanical head, will enable a man to be uſeful in this way. We would however adviſe people never to truſt ſuch operators, when an expert and ſkilful ſurgeon can be had; but when that is impracticable, they muſt be employed; we ſhall therefore recommend the following hints to their conſideration:

WHEN a large bone is broken, the patient's diet ought, in all reſpects, to be the ſame as in an inflammatory fever. He ſhould likewiſe be kept quiet and cool, and his belly ſhould be opened either by emollient clyſters, or, if theſe cannot be conveniently adminiſtered, by food that is of an opening quality; as ſtewed prunes, apples boiled in milk, boiled ſpinnage, and the like. It ought however to be here remarked, that perſons who have been accuſtomed to live high, are not all of a ſudden to be reduced to a very low diet. This might have fatal conſequences. There is often a neceſſity of indulging even bad habits, in ſome meaſure, where the nature of the diſeaſe might require a different treatment.

IT

It will generally be neceſſary to bleed the patient immediately after a fracture, eſpecially if he be young, of a full habit, or has, at the ſame time, received any bruiſe or contuſion. This operation ſhould not only be performed ſoon after the accident happens, but if the patient be very feveriſh, it may be repeated next day. When ſeveral of the ribs are broken, bleeding is peculiarly neceſſary.

If any of the large bones which ſupport the weight of the body be broken, the patient muſt keep his bed for ſeveral weeks. It is by no means neceſſary however that he ſhould lie all this while, as is cuſtomary, upon his back. This ſituation ſinks the ſpirits, galls and frets the patient's ſkin, and renders him very uneaſy. After the ſecond week he may be gently raiſed up, and may ſit ſeveral hours, ſupported by a bed-chair, or the like, which will greatly relieve him. Great care however muſt be taken in raiſing him up, and laying him down, that he make no exertions himſelf, otherwiſe the action of the muſcles may pull the bone out of its place *.

It

* Various pieces of machinery have been contrived for counteracting the force of the muſcles, and retaining the fragments of broken bones; but as deſcriptions of theſe without drawings would be of little uſe, I ſhall refer the reader to a cheap and uſeful performance *on the nature and cure of fractures* lately publiſhed by my ingenious friend Mr. Aitken ſurgeon in Edinburgh; wherein that gentleman has not only given an account of the machines recommended in fractures

It is of great importance to keep the patient dry and clean while in this ſituation. By neglecting this, he is often ſo galled and excoriated, that he is forced to keep ſhifting places for eaſe. I have known a fractured thigh bone, after it had laid ſtrait for above a fortnight, diſplaced by this means, and continue bent for life, in ſpite of all that could be done.

It has been cuſtomary when a bone was broken to keep the limb for five or ſix weeks continually upon the ſtretch. But this is a bad poſture. It is both uneaſy to the patient and unfavourable to the cure. The beſt ſituation is to keep the limb a little bent. This is the poſture into which every animal puts its limbs when it goes to reſt, and in which feweſt muſcles are upon the ſtretch. It is eaſy effected by either laying the patient upon his ſide, or making the bed ſo as to favour this poſition of the limb.

Bone-setters ought carefully to examine whether the bone be not ſhattered or broken, into a great many pieces. In this caſe it will generally be neceſſary to have the limb taken off, otherwiſe a gangrene or mortification may enſue. The horror which attends the very idea of an amputation, often occaſions its being delayed in ſuch caſes till too late.

by former authors, but has likewiſe added ſeveral improvements of his own, which are peculiarly uſeful in compound fractures, and in caſes where patients with broken bones are obliged to be tranſported from one place to another.

When

When a fracture is accompanied with a wound, it muſt be dreſſed in all reſpects as a common wound.

All that art can do towards the cure of a broken bone, is to lay it perfectly ſtraight, and to keep it quite eaſy. All tight bandages do hurt. They had much better be wanting altogether. A great many of the bad conſequences which ſucceed to fractured bones are owing to tight bandages. This is one of the ways in which the exceſs of art, or rather the abuſe of it, does more miſchief than would be occaſioned by the want of it. Some of the moſt ſudden cures of broken bones which were ever known, happened where no bandages were applied at all. Some method however muſt be taken to keep the member ſteady; but this may be done many ways without bracing it with a tight bandage.

The beſt method of retention is by two or more ſplints made of leather or paſteboard. Theſe, if moiſtened before they be applied, ſoon aſſume the ſhape of the included member, and are ſufficient, by the aſſiſtance of a very ſlight bandage, for all the purpoſes of retention. The bandage which we would recommend is that made with twelve or eighteen tails. It is much eaſier applied and taken off than rollers, and anſwers all the purpoſes of retention equally well. The ſplints ſhould always be as long as the limb, with holes cut for the ancles when the fracture is in the leg.

In fractures of the ribs, where a bandage cannot be properly uſed, an adheſive plaſter may be applied over the part. The patient in this caſe ought to keep himſelf quite eaſy, avoiding every thing that may occaſion ſneezing, laughing, coughing, or the like. He ought to keep his body in a ſtraight poſture, and ſhould take care that his ſtomach be conſtantly diſtended, by taking frequently ſome light food, and drinking freely of weak watery liquors.

The moſt proper external application for a fracture is *oxycrate*, or a mixture of vinegar and water. The bandages ſhould be wet with this at every dreſſing.

OF STRAINS.

Strains are often attended with worſe conſequences than broken bones. The reaſon is obvious; they are generally neglected. When a bone is broken, the patient is obliged to keep the member eaſy, becauſe he cannot make uſe of it; but when a joint is only ſtrained, the perſon, finding he can ſtill make a ſhift to move it, is ſorry to loſe his time for ſo trifling an ailment. In this way he deceives himſelf, and converts into an incurable malady what might have been removed by only keeping the part eaſy for a few days.

Country people generally immerſe a ſtrained limb in cold water. This is very proper, provided it be done immediately, and not kept in too long.

long. But the cuſtom of keeping the part immerſed in cold water for a long time, is certainly dangerous. It relaxes inſtead of bracing the part, and is more likely to produce a diſeaſe than remove one.

WRAPPING a garter, or ſome other bandage, pretty tight about the ſtrained part, is likewiſe of uſe. It helps to reſtore the proper tone of the veſſels, and prevents the action of the parts from encreaſing the diſeaſe. It ſhould not however be applied too tight. I have frequently known bleeding near the affected part have a very good effect: But what we would recommend above all things is *eaſe*. It is more to be depended on than any medicine, and ſeldom fails to remove the complaint*.

OF RUPTURES.

CHILDREN and very old people are moſt liable to this diſeaſe. In the former it is generally occaſioned by exceſſive crying, coughing, vomiting, or the like. In the latter it is commonly the effect of blows or violent exertions of the ſtrength,

* A great many external applications are recommended for ſtrains, ſome of which do good and others hurt. The following are ſuch as may be uſed with the greateſt ſafety, viz. poultices made of ſtale beer or vinegar and oatmeal, camphorated ſpirits of wine, Mindererus's ſpirit, volatile liniment, volatile aromatic ſpirit diluted with a double quantity of water, and the common fomentation, with the addition of brandy or ſpirit of wine.

as leaping, carrying great weights, &c. In both, a relaxed habit, indolence, and an oily or very moiſt diet, diſpoſe the body to this diſeaſe.

On the firſt appearance of a rupture in an infant, it ought to be laid upon its back, with its head very low. While in this poſture, if the gut does not return of itſelf, it may eaſily be put up by gentle preſſure. After it is returned, a piece of ſticking plaſter may be applied over the part, and a proper truſs or bandage muſt be conſtantly worn for a conſiderable time. The method of making and applying theſe rupture-bandages for children is pretty well known. The child muſt, as far as poſſible, be kept from crying, and from all violent motion, till the rupture is quit healed.

In adults, when the gut has been forced down with great violence, or happens, from any cauſe, to be inflamed, it is often very difficult to return it, and ſometimes quite impracticable without an operation, a deſcription of which is foreign to our purpoſe. As I have been fortunate enough however always to ſucceed in my attempts to return the gut, without having recourſe to any other means than what are in the power of every man, I ſhall very briefly mention the method which I generally purſue. After the patient has been bled, he muſt be laid upon his back, with his head very low, and his breech raiſed high with pillows. In this ſituation flannel-cloths wrung out of a decoction of mallows and camomile-flowers, or, if theſe are not at hand, of warm water,

water, muſt be applied for a conſiderable time. A clyſter made of this decoction, with a large ſpoonful of butter and a little ſalt, may be afterwards thrown up. If theſe ſhould not prove ſucceſsful, recourſe muſt be had to preſſure. If the tumour be very hard, conſiderable force will be neceſſary; but it is not force alone which ſucceeds here. The operator, at the ſame time that he makes a preſſure with the palms of his hand, muſt with his fingers conduct the gut in by the ſame aperture through which it came out. The manner of doing this, can be much eaſier conceived than deſcribed. Should all theſe endeavours prove ineffectual, clyſters of the ſmoke of tobacco muſt be tried. Theſe have been often known to ſucceed where every other method failed.

An adult, after the gut has been returned, muſt wear a ſteel-bandage. It is needleſs to deſcribe this, as it may always be had ready-made from the artiſts. Such bandages are generally uneaſy to the wearer for ſome time, but by cuſtom they become quite eaſy. No perſon who has had a rupture after he arrived at man's eſtate, ſhould ever be without one of theſe bandages.

Persons who have a rupture ought carefully to avoid all violent exerciſe, carrying great weights, leaping, running, and the like. They ſhould likewiſe avoid windy aliment and ſtrong liquors; and ſhould carefully guard againſt catching cold.

CHAP.

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OF CASUALTIES.

IT is certain that life, when to all appearance loſt, may often, by due care, be reſtored. Accidents frequently prove fatal, merely becauſe proper means are not uſed to counteract their effects. No perſon ought therefore to be looked upon as killed by any accident, unleſs where the ſtructure of the heart, brain, lungs, or ſome organ neceſſary to life is evidently deſtroyed. The action of theſe organs may be ſo far impaired as even to be for ſome time imperceptible, when life is by no means gone: In this caſe, however, if the fluids be ſuffered to grow cold, it will be impoſſible to put them again in motion, even though the ſolids ſhould recover their power of acting. Thus, when the motion of the lungs has been ſtopt by unwholeſome vapour, the action of the heart by a ſtroke on the breaſt, or the functions of the brain by a blow on the head, if the perſon be ſuffered to grow cold, he will in all probability continue ſo; but, if the body be kept warm, as ſoon as the injured part has recovered its power of acting, the fluids will again begin to move, and all the vital functions will be reſtored.

IT is a horrid cuſtom immediately to conſign over to death every perſon who has the misfortune by a fall, a blow, or the like, to be deprived of

the appearance of life. The unhappy perſon, inſtead of being carried into a warm houſe, and laid by the fire, or put in a warm bed, is generally hurried away to a church, a barn, or ſome other cold damp houſe, where, after a fruitleſs attempt has been made to bleed him, perhaps by one who knew nothing of the matter, he is given over for dead, and no further notice taken of him. This conduct ſeems to be the reſult of ignorance, ſupported by an ancient ſuperſtitious notion, which forbids the body of any perſon ſuppoſed to be killed by an accident to be laid in an houſe that is inhabited. What the ground of this ſuperſtition may be, we ſhall not pretend to enquire; but ſurely the conduct founded upon it is contrary to all the principles of reaſon, humanity, and common ſenſe.

When a perſon ſeems to be ſuddenly deprived of life, our firſt buſineſs is to enquire into the cauſe. We ought carefully to obſerve whether any ſubſtance be lodged in the windpipe or gullet; and, if that is the caſe, attempts muſt be made to remove it. When unwholeſome air is the cauſe, the patient ought immediately to be removed out of it. If the circulation be ſuddenly ſtopped, from any cauſe whatever except mere weakneſs, the patient ſhould be bled. If the blood does not flow, he may be immerſed in warm water, or rubbed with warm cloths, &c. to promote that evacuation. When the cauſe cannot be ſuddenly removed, our great aim muſt be to keep up the vital warmth,

warmth, by rubbing the patient with hot cloths, covering his body with warm ſand, aſhes, or the like.

We ſhall now proceed to treat more fully of thoſe accidents, which, without immediate aſſiſtance, would often prove fatal; and to point out the moſt likely means for relieving the unhappy ſufferers; but as we have been greatly anticipated in this part of our ſubject by the learned and humane Dr. Tiſſot, we ſhall content ourſelves with ſelecting ſuch of his obſervations as ſeem to be the moſt important, and adding ſuch of our own as have occurred in the courſe of practice.

OF SUBSTANCES STOPT BETWEEN THE MOUTH AND STOMACH.

Though accidents of this kind are very common, and extremely dangerous, yet they are generally the effect of careleſſneſs. Children ſhould be taught to chew their food well, and to put nothing into their mouths which it would be dangerous for them to ſwallow. But children are not the only perſons guilty of this piece of imprudence. I know many adults who put pins, nails, and other ſharp-pointed ſubſtances in their mouths upon every occaſion, and ſome who even ſleep with the former there all night. This conduct is exceedingly incautious, as a fit of coughing, or twenty other accidents, may force over the ſubſtance before the perſon be aware.

When

When any ſubſtance is detained in the gullet, there are two ways of removing it, viz. either by extracting it, or puſhing it down. The ſafeſt and moſt certain way is always to extract or draw it out, but this is not always the eaſieſt; it may therefore be more eligible ſometimes to thruſt it down, eſpecially when the obſtructing body is of ſuch a nature, that there is no danger from its reception into the ſtomach. The ſubſtances which may be puſhed down without danger are, all common nouriſhing ones, as bread, fleſh, fruits, and the like: All indigeſtible bodies, as cork, wood, bones, pieces of metal, and ſuch like, ought, if poſſible, to be extracted, eſpecially if theſe bodies be ſharp pointed, as pins, needles, fiſh-bones, bits of glaſs, &c.

When ſuch ſubſtances have not paſſed in too deep, we ſhould endeavour to extract them with our fingers, which method often ſucceeds. When they are lower, we ſhould make uſe of nippers, or a ſmall pair of forceps, ſuch as ſurgeons uſe. But this attempt to extract rarely ſucceeds, if the ſubſtance be of a flexible nature, and has deſcended far into the gullet.

If the fingers and nippers fail, or cannot be duly applied, crotchets, a kind of hooks, muſt be employed. Theſe may be made at once, by bending a piece of pretty ſtrong iron wire at one end. It muſt be introduced in the flat way, and for the better conducting it, there ſhould likewiſe be a

curve or bending at the end it is held by, to ſerve as a kind of handle to it, which has this further uſe, that it may be ſecured by a ſtring tied to it, a circumſtance not to be omitted in any inſtrument employed on ſuch occaſions, to avoid ſuch ill accidents as have ſometimes enſued from theſe inſtruments ſlipping out of the operator's hand. After the crotchet has paſſed below the ſubſtance that obſtructs the paſſage, it is drawn up again, and hooks up the body along with it. The crotchet is alſo very convenient, when a ſubſtance ſomewhat flexible, as a pin or fiſh-bone, ſticks acroſs the gullet, the hook, in ſuch caſes, ſeizing them about their middle part, crooks and thus diſengages them; or, if they are very brittle ſubſtances, it ſerves to break them.

When the obſtructing bodies are ſmall, and only ſtop up a part of the paſſage, and which may either eaſily elude the hook, or ſtraiten it by their reſiſtance, a kind of rings, made either of wire, wool, or ſilk, may be uſed. A piece of fine wire of a proper length may be bent into a circle, about the middle, of about an inch diameter, and the long unbent ſides brought parallel, and near each other: theſe are to be held in the hand, and the circular part or ring introduced into the gullet, in order to be conducted about the obſtructing body, and ſo to extract it. More flexible rings may be made of wool, thread, ſilk, or ſmall pack-thread, which may be waxed for their greater ſtrength and conſiſtence. One of theſe is to be

tied

tied faſt to a handle of iron wire, whale-bone, or any kind of flexible wood, and by this means introduced, in order to ſurround the obſtructing ſubſtance, and to draw it out. Several of theſe rings paſſed through one another may be uſed, the more certainly to lay hold of the obſtructing body, which may be involved by one, if another ſhould miſs it. Theſe rings have one advantage, which is, that when the ſubſtance to be extracted is once laid hold of, it may then, by turning the handle, be retained ſo ſtrongly in the ring thus twiſted, as to be moved every way, which muſt in many caſes be a conſiderable advantage.

Another material employed on theſe unhappy occaſions, is the ſponge. Its property of ſwelling conſiderably on being wet, is the principal foundation of its uſefulneſs here. If any ſubſtance is ſtopt in the gullet, but without filling up the whole paſſage, a bit of ſponge may be introduced into that part which is unſtopt, and beyond the ſubſtance. The ſponge ſoon dilates, and grows larger in this moiſt ſituation, and indeed the enlargement of it may be forwarded by making the patient ſwallow a few drops of water. Afterwards it is to be drawn back by the handle to which it is faſtened, and as it is now too large to return through the ſmall cavity by which it was conveyed in, it draws out the obſtructing body along with it.

The compreſſibility of ſponge is another foundation of its uſefulneſs in ſuch caſes. A pretty large

large piece of ſponge may be compreſſed or ſqueezed into a ſmall ſize, by winding a ſtring or tape cloſely about it, which may be eaſily unwound and withdrawn, after the ſponge has been introduced. A bit of ſponge may likewiſe be compreſſed by a piece of whalebone ſplit at one end, but this can hardly be introduced in ſuch a manner as not to hurt the patient.

I HAVE often known pins, and other ſharp bodies which had ſtuck in the throat, brought up by cauſing the perſon ſwallow a bit of tough meat tied to a thread, and drawing it quickly up again. This is ſafer than ſwallowing ſponge, and will often anſwer the purpoſe equally well.

WHEN all theſe methods prove unſucceſsful, there remains one more, which is, to make the patient vomit; but this can ſcarcely be of any ſervice, unleſs when ſuch obſtructing bodies are ſimply engaged in, and not hooked or ſtuck into the ſides of the gullet, as in this caſe vomiting might ſometimes occaſion further miſchief. If the patient can ſwallow, vomiting may be excited by taking half a dram or two ſcruples of ipecacuanha in powder made into a draught. If he is not able to ſwallow, an attempt may be made to excite vomiting, by tickling his throat with a feather, and if that ſhould not ſucceed, a clyſter of tobacco may be adminiſtered. It is made by boiling an ounce of tobacco in a ſufficient quantity of water; this has often been found to ſucceed, when other attempts to excite vomiting had failed.

WHEN

When the obſtructing body is of ſuch a nature that it may be ſafely puſhed downwards, this may be attempted by means of a wax candle oiled, and a little heated, ſo as to make it flexible; or a piece of whalebone, wire, or flexible wood, with a ſponge faſtened to one end.

Should it be impoſſible to extract even thoſe bodies which it is dangerous to admit into the ſtomach, we muſt then prefer the leaſt of two evils, and rather run the hazard of puſhing them down, than ſuffer the patient to periſh in a few minutes; and we ought to ſcruple this reſolution the leſs, as a great many inſtances have happened, where the ſwallowing of ſuch hurtful or indigeſtable ſubſtances has been followed by no diſorder.

Whenever it is manifeſt, that all endeavours either to extract or puſh down the ſubſtance, muſt prove ineffectual, they ſhould be diſcontinued; becauſe the inflammation occaſioned by perſiſting in them might be as dangerous as the obſtruction itſelf. Some have died in conſequence of the inflammation, even after the body which cauſed the obſtruction had been entirely removed.

While the means recommended above are making uſe of, the patient ſhould often ſwallow, or if he cannot, he ſhould frequently receive by injection, through a crooked tube or pipe that may reach down to the gullet, ſome emollient liquor, as warm milk and water, barley-water, or a decoction of mallows. Injections of this kind not

only ſoften and ſooth the irritated parts; but, when thrown in with force, are often more ſucceſsful in looſening the obſtruction, than all attempts with inſtruments.

When, after all our endeavours, we are obliged to leave the obſtructing body in the part, the patient muſt be treated as if he had an inflammatory diſeaſe. He ſhould be bled, kept upon a low diet, and have his whole neck ſurrounded with emollient poultices. The like treatment muſt alſo be uſed, if there be any reaſon to ſuſpect an inflammation of the paſſages, though the obſtructing body be removed.

A proper degree of agitation has ſometimes looſened the inhering body more effectually than inſtruments. Thus a blow on the back has often forced up a ſubſtance which ſtuck in the gullet; but this is ſtill more proper and efficacious when the ſubſtance gets into the wind-pipe. In this caſe, vomiting and ſneezing are likewiſe to be excited. Pins, which ſtuck in the gullet, have been frequently diſcharged by riding on horſeback, or in a machine.

When any indigeſtable ſubſtance has been forced down to the ſtomach, the patient ſhould uſe a very mild and ſmooth diet, conſiſting chiefly of fruits and farinacious mealy ſubſtances, as puddings, pottage, and ſoups. He ſhould avoid all heating and irritating things, as wine, punch, pepper,

per, and ſuch like; and his drink ſhould be milk and water, barley-water, or whey.

When the gullet is ſo ſtrongly and fully cloſed, that the patient can receive no food by the mouth, he muſt be nouriſhed by clyſters of ſoup, gelly, and the like.

When the patient is in danger of being immediately ſuffocated, when all hope of freeing the paſſage is vaniſhed, and death ſeems at hand, if reſpiration be not reſtored; the operation of *bronchotomy*, or opening of the wind-pipe, muſt be directly performed. As this operation is neither difficult to an expert ſurgeon, nor very painful to the patient, and is often the only method which can be taken to preſerve life in theſe emergencies, we thought proper to mention it, though it ſhould only be attempted by perſons ſkilled in ſurgery.

OF DROWNED PERSONS.

When a perſon has remained a quarter of an hour under water, there can be no conſiderable hopes of his recovery. But as ſeveral circumſtances may happen to have continued life, in ſuch an unfortunate ſituation, beyond the ordinary term, we ſhould always endeavour to afford them the moſt effectual relief, and never to give them up as irrecoverable too ſoon, ſince it has often been known, that until the expiration of two, and ſometimes even of three hours, ſuch perſons have exhibited ſome tokens of life.

THE intention which ſhould be purſued is, that of unloading the *lungs* and *brain*, and reſtoring the natural *warmth* and *circulation*, &c. Though cold was by no means the cauſe of the perſon's death, yet it will prove an effectual obſtacle to his recovery. For this reaſon, after ſtripping him of his wet clothes, his body muſt be ſtrongly rubbed for a conſiderable time with coarſe linen cloths as warm as they can be made, and as ſoon as a well-heated bed can be got ready, he may be laid in it, and the rubbing ſhould be continued. Warm clothes ought likewiſe to be frequently applied to his ſtomach and bowels, and hot bricks, or bottles filled with warm water, to the ſoles of his feet.

BLEEDING will likewiſe be of ſervice to renew the circulation. Ten or twelve ounces of blood may be taken from any part of the body, if a vein can be found; but as the veins of the arm will ſeldom bleed upon ſuch occaſions, it will be proper to try thoſe of the neck, which are both moſt apt to bleed, and afford the moſt ſudden relief to the brain.

IN order to renew the breathing, a ſtrong perſon may blow his own breath into the patient's mouth with all the force he can; or, what will generally ſucceed better, the ſmoke of tobacco may be blown into the lungs, by means of a pipe or funnel *. The fume of tobacco ſhould likewiſe

* I have known a pig drowned and reſtored to life two or three times ſucceſſively, by blowing air into its mouth with a pair of ſmall bellows, and laying it before the fire.

be

be thrown up as ſpeedily and plentifully as poſſible into the inteſtines in form of clyſter. There are various contrivances for this purpoſe, and common ſenſe will generally ſuggeſt which is the moſt commodious upon ſuch emergencies.

The ſtrongeſt volatiles ſhould likewiſe be applied to the noſe, as ſpirit of hartſhorn, *ſal volatile oleoſum*, burnt feathers, and ſuch like. The noſe may likewiſe be tickled with a feather, and the powder of dried marjoram, tobacco, or rue blown up the noſtrils. The temples and pit of the ſtomach may be frequently rubbed with warm brandy or ſpirits of wine, a few drops of which may likewiſe be put into the mouth by means of a feather.

Should theſe endeavours prove unſucceſsful, the patient may be put into a warm bath, or laid among warm aſhes, hot dung, ſand, or ſuch like. Dr. Tiſſot mentions an inſtance of a girl who was reſtored to life, after ſhe had been taken out of the water, ſwelled, blotted, and to all appearance dead, by laying her naked body upon hot aſhes, covering her with others equally hot, putting a bonnet round her head, and a ſtocking round her neck ſtuffed with the ſame, and heaping coverings over all. After ſhe had remained half an hour in this ſituation, her pulſe returned, ſhe recovered ſpeech, and cried out, *I freeze, I freeze*; a little cherry-brandy was given her, and ſhe remained buried, as it were, under the aſhes for eight hours; afterwards ſhe was taken out, with-

out any other complaint except that of laſſitude or wearineſs, which went off in a few days. The Doctor mentions another inſtance of a man who was reſtored to life, after he had remained ſix hours under water, by the heat of a dung-heap.

As ſoon as the patient diſcovers any motion, he may take frequently a table-ſpoonful of the oxymel of ſquills diluted with warm water; or, if that medicine is not at hand, a ſtrong infuſion of ſage, camomile-flowers, or *carduus benedictus*, ſweetened with honey, may be uſed in its ſtead; where nothing elſe can be had, ſome warm water, with the addition of a little common ſalt, ſhould be given.

We are by no means to diſcontinue our aſſiſtance as ſoon as the patients diſcover ſome tokens of life, ſince they ſometimes expire after theſe firſt appearances of recovering. The warm and ſtimulating applications are ſtill to be continued, and ſmall quantities of ſome cordial liquor ought frequently to be adminiſtered. Laſtly, though the perſon ſhould be manifeſtly re-animated, there ſometimes remain an oppreſſion, a cough and feveriſhneſs, which effectually conſtitute a diſeaſe. In this caſe it will be neceſſary to bleed the patient in the arm, and to cauſe him drink plentifully of barley-water, elder-flower tea, or any other ſoft pectoral infuſion.

The directions with reſpect to perſons who have been *ſtrangled* are ſo nearly the ſame with thoſe for drowned

drowned people, that we think it unneceſſary to mention them. The general intention is the ſame, viz. to renew the circulation, reſpiration, &c. which muſt be attempted by bleeding, blowing warm air into the lungs and inteſtines, and applying warm ſubſtances, as aſhes, ſalt, or ſuch like, to the whole ſurface of the body.

Such perſons as have the misfortune to be deprived of the appearances of life by a fall, a blow, or the like, muſt alſo be treated nearly in the ſame manner as thoſe who have been for ſome time under water. I have ſeen a perſon ſo ſtunned by a fall from a horſe, that for above ſix hours he ſcarcely exhibited any ſigns of life; yet this man, by being bled, and proper methods taken to keep up the vital warmth, recovered, and in a few days was perfectly well. Dr. Alexander gives an inſtance to the ſame purpoſe, in the Edinburgh Phyſical and Literary Eſſays, of a man who was to all appearance killed by a blow on the breaſt, but recovered upon being immerſed for ſome time in warm water. Theſe, and other inſtances of a ſimilar nature which might be adduced, amount to a full proof of this fact, that many of thoſe unhappy perſons who loſe their lives by falls, blows, and other accidents, might be ſaved *by the uſe of proper means duly perſiſted in.*

OF NOXIOUS VAPOURS.

AIR may be many ways rendered noxious, or even deſtructive to animals. This may either happen from its vivifying principle being deſtroyed, or from ſubtle exhalations with which it is impregnated. Thus air that has paſſed through burning fuel is neither capable of ſupporting fire nor the life of animals. Hence the danger of ſleeping in cloſe chambers with charcoal fires. Some indeed ſuppoſe the danger here proceeds from the ſulphureous oil contained in the charcoal, which is ſet at liberty and diffuſed all over the chamber; while others imagine it is owing to the quality of the air of the room being altered by the fire alone. Be this as it may, it is a ſituation that ought carefully to be avoided. Indeed it is dangerous to ſleep in a ſmall apartment with a fire of any kind.

THE vapour which exhales from wine, cyder, beer, or other liquors, in the ſtate of fermentation, contains ſomething poiſonous, which kills in the like manner with the vapour of coal. Hence there is always danger in going into cellars where a large quantity of theſe liquors is in a ſtate of fermentation, eſpecially if they have been cloſe ſhut up for ſome time. There have been many inſtances of perſons ſtruck dead on entering ſuch places, and of others who have with difficulty eſcaped.

WHEN

When ſubterraneous caves, that have been very long ſhut, are opened, or when deep wells are cleaned, which have not been emptied for ſeveral years, the vapours ariſing from them produce the ſame effects as thoſe mentioned above. For this reaſon no perſon ought to venture into a well, pit, cellar, or any place that is damp, and has been long ſhut up, till the air has been ſufficiently purified, by burning gunpowder in it. It is eaſy to know when the air of ſuch places is unwholeſome, by letting down a lighted candle, throwing in burning fuel, or the like. If theſe continue to burn, people may ſafely venture in; but where they are ſuddenly extinguiſhed, no one ought to enter till the air has been firſt purified by fire.

The offenſive ſtink of lamps and of candles, eſpecially when their flames are extinguiſhed, operate like other vapours, though with leſs violence, and leſs ſuddenly. There have, however, been inſtances of people killed by the fumes of lamps which had been extinguiſhed in a cloſe chamber; and perſons of weak delicate breaſts generally find themſelves quickly oppreſſed in apartments illuminated with many candles.

Such as are ſenſible of their danger in theſe ſituations, and retreat ſeaſonably from it, are generally relieved as ſoon as they get into the open air; or, if they have any remaining uneaſineſs, a little water and vinegar, or lemonade, drank hot, affords

fords them relief. But when they are ſo far poiſoned, as to have loſt their feeling and underſtanding, the following means muſt be uſed for their recovery:

The patient ſhould be expoſed to a very pure, freſh, and open air; and volatile ſalts, or other ſtimulating ſubſtances held to his noſe. He ſhould next be bled in the arm, or, if that does not ſucceed, in the neck. His legs ought to be put into warm water, and well rubbed. As ſoon as he can ſwallow, ſome lemonade, or water and vinegar, with the addition of a little nitre, may be given him.

Nor are ſharp clyſters by any means to be neglected; theſe may be made, by adding to the common clyſter, ſyrup of buckthorn and tincture of ſenna, of each two ounces; or, in their ſtead, half an ounce of Venice turpentine diſſolved in the yolk of an egg, may be added. Should theſe things not be at hand, two or three large ſpoonfuls of common ſalt may be put into the clyſter. The ſame means, if neceſſary, muſt be uſed to keep up the natural warmth, circulation, &c. as were recommended in the former part of this chapter.

OF INTOXICATION.

The effects of intoxication are often fatal. No kind of poiſon kills more certainly than an overdoſe of ardent ſpirits. Sometimes indeed, by deſtroying the nervous energy, they put an end to life at once, but in general their effects are more ſlow, and in many reſpects ſimilar to thoſe of opium. Other kinds of intoxicating liquors may prove fatal when taken to exceſs, as well as ardent ſpirits, but they may generally be diſcharged by vomiting, which ought always to be excited when the ſtomach is overcharged with liquor.

More of thoſe unhappy perſons who die intoxicated, loſe their lives from an inability to conduct themſelves, than from the deſtructive quality of the liquor. Unable to walk, they tumble down, and lie in ſome aukward poſture, which obſtructs the circulation or breathing, and often continue in this ſituation till they die. No drunk perſon ſhould be left by himſelf till his clothes have been looſened, and his body laid in ſuch a poſture as is moſt favourable for continuing the vital motions, diſcharging the contents of the ſtomach, &c. The beſt poſture for diſcharging the contents of the ſtomach is to lay the perſon upon his belly; when he falls aſleep he may be laid on his ſide, with his head a little raiſed, and particular care muſt be taken that his neck be no way bent, twiſted, or have any thing too tight about it.

THE exceſſive degree of thirſt occaſioned by drinking ſtrong liquors, often induces people to quench it, by taking what is hurtful. I have known fatal conſequences even from drinking freely of milk after a debauch of wine or four punch; theſe acid liquors, together with the heat of the ſtomach, having coagulated the milk in ſuch a manner that it could never be digeſted. The ſafeſt drink after a debauch is water with a toaſt, tea, infuſions of balm, ſage, barley-water, and ſuch like. If the perſon wants to vomit, he may drink a weak infuſion of camomile flowers, or lukewarm water and oil; but in this condition vomiting may generally be excited by only tickling the throat with the finger or a feather.

INSTEAD of giving a detail of all the different ſymptoms of intoxication which indicate danger, and propoſing a general plan of treatment for perſons in this ſituation, I ſhall briefly relate the hiſtory of a caſe which lately fell under my own obſervation, wherein moſt of thoſe ſymptoms uſually reckoned dangerous occurred, and where the treatment was ſucceſsful.

A YOUNG man, about fifteen years of age, had, for a hire, drunk ten glaſſes of ſtrong brandy. He ſoon after fell faſt aſleep, and continued in that ſituation for near twelve hours, till at length his uneaſy manner of breathing, the coldneſs of his extremities, and other threatening ſymptoms, alarmed his friends, and made them ſend for me. I found him ſtill faſt aſleep, his countenance ghaſtly,

ghaſtly, and his ſkin covered with a cold clammy ſweat. Almoſt the only ſigns of life remaining, were, a deep laborious breathing, and a violent commotion or agitation of his bowels.

I TRIED to rouſe him, but in vain, by pinching, ſhaking, applying volatile ſpirits, and other ſtimulating things, to his noſe, &c. A few ounces of blood were likewiſe let from his arm, and a mixture of vinegar and water was poured into his mouth; but as he could not ſwallow, very little of this got into the ſtomach. None of theſe things having the leaſt effect, and the danger ſeeming to increaſe, I ordered his legs to be put into warm water, and ſometime after a ſharp clyſter to be adminiſtered. This gave him a ſtool, and was the firſt thing that relieved him. It was afterwards repeated with the ſame happy effect, and ſeemed to be the chief cauſe of his recovery. He then began to ſhew ſome ſigns of life, took drink when it was offered him, and came gradually to his ſenſes. He continued, however, for ſeveral days weak and feveriſh, and complained much of a foreneſs in his bowels, which gradually went off, by giving him a ſlender diet, and cool mucilaginous liquors.

THIS young man would probably have been ſuffered to die, without any aſſiſtance being called, had not a neighbour, a few days before, who had been adviſed to drink a bottle of whiſky to cure him of an ague, expired under very ſimilar circumſtances.

EFFECTS

EFFECTS OF COLD.

When cold weather is extremely ſevere, and a perſon is expoſed to it for a long time at once, it proves mortal, in conſequence of its congealing the blood in the extremities, and forcing too great a proportion of it up to the brain; ſo that the patient dies of a kind of apoplexy, which is preceded by a great ſleepineſs. The traveller, in this ſituation, who finds himſelf begin to grow drowſy, ſhould redouble his efforts to extricate himſelf from the imminent danger he is expoſed to. This ſleep, which he might conſider as ſome alleviation of his ſufferings, would, if indulged, prove his laſt.

Such violent effects of cold are happily not very common in this country; it frequently happens, however, that the hands or feet of travellers are ſo benumbed or frozen, as to be in danger of a mortification, if proper means are not uſed to prevent it. The chief danger in this ſituation ariſes from the ſudden application of heat. It is very common, when the hands or feet are pinched with cold, to hold them to the fire, yet reaſon and obſervation ſhew, that this is a moſt dangerous and imprudent conduct.

Every peaſant knows, if frozen meat, fruits, or roots of any kind be brought near the fire, or put into warm water, they will be deſtroyed, by rottenneſs, or a kind of mortification; and that the

the only way to recover them, is to immerſe them for ſome time in very cold water. The ſame obſervation holds with regard to animals in this condition.

When the hands or feet are greatly benumbed with cold, they ought either to be immerſed in cold water, or rubbed with ſnow, till they recover their natural warmth and ſenſibility; after which the perſon may be removed into an apartment a little warmer, and may drink ſome cups of tea, or an infuſion of elder-flowers ſweetened with honey. Every perſon muſt have obſerved when his hands were even but ſlightly affected with cold, that the beſt way to warm them was by waſhing them in cold water, and continuing to rub them well for ſome time.

When a perſon has been ſo long expoſed to the cold, that all appearances of life are gone, it will be neceſſary to rub him all over with ſnow or cold water; or, what will anſwer better, if it can be obtained, to immerſe them in a bath of the very coldeſt water. There is the greateſt encouragement to perſiſt in the uſe of theſe means, as we are aſſured that perſons who had remained in the ſnow, or had been expoſed to the freezing air during five or ſix ſucceſſive days, and who had diſcovered no marks of life for ſeveral hours, have nevertheleſs been revived.

I have always thought, that the whitlows, kibes, chilblains, and other inflammations of the

extremities, which are ſo common amongſt the peaſants of this country in the cold ſeaſon, were chiefly occaſioned by their ſudden tranſitions from cold to heat. After they have been expoſed to an extreme degree of cold, they immediately apply their hands and feet to the fire, or, if they have occaſion, plunge them into warm water, by which means, if a mortification does not happen, an inflammation ſeldom fails to enſue. Moſt of the ill conſequences from this quarter might be eaſily avoided, by only obſerving the precautions mentioned above.

OTHER CASES WHICH REQUIRE IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE.

Strong and healthy perſons, who abound with blood, are often ſeized with ſudden fainting-fits, after violent exerciſe, drinking freely of warm or ſtrong liquors, expoſure to great heat, intenſe application to ſtudy, or the like.

In ſuch caſes the patient ſhould be made to ſmell to ſome vinegar. His temples, forehead, and wriſts ought at the ſame time to be bathed with vinegar mixed with an equal quantity of warm water; and two or three ſpoonfuls of vinegar, with four or five times as much water, may, if he can ſwallow, be poured into his mouth.

If the fainting proves obſtinate, or degenerates into a *ſyncope*, that is, an abolition of feeling and under-

underſtanding, the patient muſt be bled. After the bleeding, a clyſter will be proper, and then he ſhould be kept eaſy and quiet, only giving him every half hour a cup or two of an infuſion of any mild vegetable, with the addition of a little ſugar and vinegar.

When ſwoonings, which ariſe from this cauſe, occur frequently in the ſame perſon, he ſhould, in order to eſcape them, confine himſelf to a light diet, conſiſting chiefly of bread, fruits, and other vegetables. His drink ought to be water or ſmall beer, and he ſhould ſleep but moderately, and take much exerciſe.

But fainting-fits proceed much oftener from a defect, than an exceſs of blood. Hence they are very ready to happen after great evacuations of any kind; obſtinate watching; want of appetite, or ſuch like. In theſe an almoſt directly oppoſite courſe to that mentioned above muſt be purſued.

The patient ſhould be laid in bed, and being covered, ſhould have his legs, thighs, arms, and his whole body rubbed ſtrongly with hot flannels. Hungary water, volatile ſalts, or ſtrong ſmelling herbs, as rue, mint, or roſemary, may be held to his noſe. His mouth may be wet with a little rum or brandy; and, if he can ſwallow, ſome hot wine, mixed with ſugar and cinnamon, which is an excellent cordial, may be poured into his mouth. A compreſs of flannel dipt in hot wine or brandy muſt be applied to the pit of his ſtomach, and

warm bricks, or bottles filled with hot water, laid to the feet.

As ſoon as the patient is recovered a little, he ſhould take ſome ſtrong ſoup or broth, or a little bread or biſcuit ſocked in hot-ſpiced wine. To prevent the return of the fits, he ought to take often, but in ſmall quantities, ſome light yet ſtrengthening nouriſhment, as panado made with ſoup inſtead of water, new laid eggs lightly poached, chocolate, light roaſt meats, jellies, and ſuch like.

These fainting-fits, which are the effect of bleeding, or of the violent operation of purges, belong to this claſs. Such as happen after artificial bleeding are ſeldom dangerous, generally terminating as ſoon as the patient is laid upon the bed; indeed perſons ſubject to this kind ſhould always be bled lying, in order to prevent it. Should the fainting, however, continue longer than uſual, ſome vinegar may be ſmelt to, and a little, mixed with ſome water, ſwallowed.

When fainting is the effect of too ſtrong or acrid purges or vomits, the patient muſt be treated in all reſpects as if he had taken poiſon. He ſhould be made to drink plentifully of milk, warm water, and oil, barley-water, or ſuch like; emollient clyſters will likewiſe be proper, and the patient's ſtrength ſhould afterwards be recruited, by giving him generous cordials, and anodyne medicines.

Faint-

FAINTINGS are often occaſioned by indigeſtion. This may either proceed from the quantity or quality of the food. When the former of theſe is the cauſe, the cure will be beſt porformed by vomiting, which may be promoted by cauſing the patient drink a weak infuſion of camomile flowers, *carduus benedictus*, or the like. When the diſorder proceeds from the nature of the food, the patient, as in the caſe of weakneſs, muſt be revived by ſtrong ſmells, &c. but the moſt eſſential point is, to make him ſwallow a large quantity of light warm fluid, which may ſerve to drown, as it were, the offending matter, to ſoften its acrimony, and either to effect a diſcharge of it by vomiting, or force it down into the inteſtines.

EVEN diſagreeable ſmells will ſometimes occaſion ſwoonings, eſpecially in people of weak nerves. When this happens, the patient ſhould be carried into the open air, have ſtimulating things held to his noſe, and thoſe ſubſtances which are diſagreeable to him, ought immediately to be removed. But we have already taken notice of ſwoonings which ariſe from nervous diſorders, and ſhall therefore ſay no more upon that head.

FAINTING-FITS often happen in the progreſs of diſeaſes. In the beginning of putrid diſeaſes, they generally denote an oppreſſion at ſtomach, or a maſs of corrupted humours, and they ceaſe after evacuations either by vomit or ſtool. When they occur at the beginning of malignant fevers, they indicate great danger. In each of theſe caſes,

vinegar uſed both externally and internally is the beſt remedy during the paroxyſm, and plenty of lemon-juice and water after it. Swoonings which happen in diſeaſes accompanied with great evacuations, muſt be treated like thoſe which are owing to weakneſs, and the evacuations ought to be reſtrained. When they happen towards the end of a violent fit of an intermitting fever, or at that of each exacerbation of a continual fever, the patient muſt be ſupported by ſmall draughts of wine and water.

SUFFOCATING or STRANGLING FITS likewiſe require immediate aſſiſtance. They proceed either from an infarction of the lungs, produced by viſcid clammy humours, or a ſpaſmodic affection of the nerves in that organ. Perſons who feed groſsly, and abound with blood, are moſt liable to ſuffocating fits, from the former of theſe cauſes. Such ought, as ſoon as they are attacked, to be bled, to receive an emollient clyſter, and to have frequently a cup of any kind of warm diluting liquor, with a little nitre in it, given them. They ſhould likewiſe receive the ſteams of hot vinegar into their lungs by breathing. Nervous and aſthmatic people are moſt ſubject to ſpaſmodic affections of the lungs. In this caſe the patient's legs ſhould be immerſed in warm water, and the vapour or ſteam of vinegar be applied at above. He may alſo be made to ſmell to burnt paper, feathers, or leather, and freſh air ſhould be very freely admitted to him.

FROM

FROM whatever cauſe fainting fits may proceed, freſh air is always of the greateſt importance to the patient. By not attending to this circumſtance, people often kill their friends, while they are endeavouring to ſave them. Alarmed at the patient's ſituation, they call in a croud of people to his aſſiſtance, or perhaps to witneſs his exit, whoſe breathing exhauſts the air, and increaſes the danger. There is not the leaſt doubt but this practice, which is very common among the lower ſort of people, often proves fatal, eſpecially to the delicate, and ſuch perſons as fall into fainting-fits from mere exhauſtion or the violence of ſome diſeaſe. No more perſons ought ever to be admitted into the room where a patient lies in a ſwoon than are abſolutely neceſſary for his aſſiſtance, and the windows of the apartment ſhould always be opened, at leaſt as far as to admit a ſtream of freſh air.

PERSONS ſubject to frequent ſwoonings, or fainting-fits, ſhould neglect no means to remove the cauſe of them, as their conſequences are always hurtful to the conſtitution. Every fainting-fit leaves the perſon in dejection and weakneſs; the ſecretions are thereby ſuſpended, the humours diſpoſed to ſtagnation, coagulations and obſtructions are formed, and, if the motion of the blood be totally intercepted, or very conſiderably checked, *polypuſes* are formed in the heart, or larger veſſels, the conſequences of which are always dangerous, and often fatal. The only kind of ſwoonings not

to

to be dreaded are thoſe which ſometimes mark the *criſis* in fevers; yet even theſe ought, as ſoon as poſſible, to be removed.

BEFORE we conclude, we muſt beg leave earneſtly to recommend to the reader a particular attention to the contents of this chapter, and a ſteady perſeverance in the uſe of ſuch means as are therein pointed out, for recovering perſons who have had the misfortune to be ſuddenly deprived of life by any accident. Were it neceſſary, we could bring many well-atteſted proofs of the happy ſucceſs which has attended ſuch perſeverance, even in caſes where there was very little reaſon to have expected it. It would alſo be an eaſy matter to adduce numerous arguments to recommend and enforce the practice of theſe human and benevolent offices; but all theſe, we are perſuaded, would be ſuperfluous. Every good man muſt feel the ſtrongeſt propenſity, upon ſuch emergencies, to do all in his power to preſerve the life of an uſeful citizen, a beloved friend, or even of an enemy; nor can any pleaſure equal that which a generous mind experiences, when ſuch endeavours are crowned with ſucceſs.

THE END.

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the business was private.

PETERHEAD MINERAL SPRINGS.—From a work just published by Dr MacPherson, London, we take the following extract relating to the mineral waters of Peterhead:—"Peterhead was for nearly two centuries the Tunbridge Wells of Scotland. It was first recommended to the public in 1636, by Dr Andrew Moor, then only a student in Edinburgh. It rose rapidly in popularity; it is mentioned as an important chalybeate in all the works on mineral waters of the eighteenth century; and apparently Dr Laing's treatise in 1793 was the last published on it. Peterhead lies on an exposed headland jutting out into the German Ocean, opposite to Norway, and has always been famous for its fresh air and sea breezes. "We in Scotland," as Dr Moor remarks, "are at no time troubled with heat, and our summer is chiefly distinguished by the long sojourning of the sun on our hopizon." And the shortness of the night in summer strikes all English visitors of the North of Scotland. There were six chalybeate springs; one called the wine well, a name strongly suggestive of Schwalbach or Pyrmont. It sparkled in the glass, and exhilarated the spirits when drunk. The well appears to have been a powerful chalybeate. A rough analysis makes it contain nearly three grains of carbonate and muriate of iron, and seven inches of carbonic acid with scarcely any earthly ingredients. It was, therefore, a very pure and powerful chalybeate, and deserves to be examined again. Theoretically, it is somewhat too strong, but an unpleasantly strong water would scarcely have maintained its popularity over such a long period, for it was resorted to by crowds of people as late as the year 1795. In spite of the [illegible] efforts of the magistrates of Peterhead, its chalybeates are now neglected. If they be good chalybeates, it is a great pity it should be so, as iron waters are useful under so many circumstances. They were employed in disorders of the stomach and bowels, in nervous complaints, and especially in the affections of women."